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No. 176

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEUGEBAUER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 7, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY NEUGEBAUER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

PROTECTING PENSIONS OF COAL MINERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, miners and their widows in West Virginia and across the country are asking us to protect their pensions and health care, families like Robin Workman of Boone County, who wrote to me about how she and her husband depend on these benefits. These are the benefits that they earned.

She said: "My husband put in 35 years underground, a promise made to

them shouldn't be broken. West Virginia helped keep the lights on back then as well as today. Please don't forget about us."

This promise dates back to 1946 when the Truman administration signed an agreement with coal miners, an agreement that guaranteed their pensions and health care would be there for them when they retired. Now that agreement—no, that promise—is in jeopardy.

In just a few weeks, tens of thousands of miners and widows will lose their health insurance. These miners have back problems, knee problems, and breathing problems, all from their work in the mines. They simply cannot go without insurance.

Kenny Meade's father is one of those retired miners. He lives in Chapmanville and reached out to me to share the story of his parents. Kenny wrote about his father. He said: "He worked 31 years in the mines and often for less than other miners so he could bargain for their right to health care and pensions."

This is an issue we can fix, but it is not an issue that arose overnight. The war on coal has decimated coal jobs in West Virginia and across the country. An onslaught of overreaching Federal regulations have made it harder to mine coal and harder to burn coal. Coal-fired power plants have shut down, making electricity more expensive and reducing the market for coal.

As demand has decreased and regulations have made it harder to mine coal, mines are closing and companies are filing for bankruptcy. A company in bankruptcy isn't going to have the resources to meet its pension obligations.

All of these market forces, regulations, and the war on coal have had devastating impacts on our miners and their families. It is time for Congress to act to keep the promise and protect the benefits the miners worked their entire life to earn.

The Coal Healthcare and Pensions Protection Act won't cost taxpayers anything. It uses existing funds paid for by mining companies to provide for retired miners. This is not a tax. Taxpayers won't be on the hook for these pensions. This is about ensuring a promise made is a promise kept.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the holiday season, I hope we will remember the retirees and widows worried about what the new year will bring. We must act now to pass a solution to this crisis to keep our word.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE STEVE ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about my friend and colleague, STEVE ISRAEL, who is retiring from Congress after 16 years. We came into Congress together and have been the best of friends and brothers ever since.

Now, the last time I mentioned STEVE ISRAEL on the House floor was after making a bet with STEVE over the Dodgers-Mets series, a bet that I lost, and I had to sing the "Meet the Mets" song on the House floor. I want to assure all my colleagues that is never going to happen again either on the playing field or on the House floor.

When we came to Congress together, we were given a book, like all incoming freshmen, called "Charting the Course." This is a book that basically says that there are three different models of being a Congressman. You can be the policy expert or you can be the political animal or you can be the pothole Congressman who is focused on district needs and excellent at meeting the needs of constituents, but the gist of the book is you can't be all three. You have to pick where you are going to make your specialization, and if you

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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try to do all three, you will end up not doing any one of them very well. STEVE ISRAEL proved the premise of that book wrong because he proved to be superlative at each and every aspect of being a Member of Congress.

On policy, STEVE developed an expertise in energy policy and became a leading champion of the development of renewable sources of energy. He became an expert on defense issues; and as one of the members of the Appropriations Committee, he helped eliminate wasteful expenditures on systems we didn't need and investment in defenses that would really protect the country.

He became an expert on Middle East policy and sorting out the difficulties of all the complicated relationships between the nations in the Middle East. He became an expert on the Syrian conflict.

He also became an expert on issues affecting the middle class and has always been a champion for what needs to be done to make sure that people in this country can enjoy a secure retirement, can get a good job, can raise their family, and that their kids will enjoy a quality of life at least as great as that of their parents, and hopefully even better.

He also founded and co-chairs the Center Aisle Caucus, doing something very difficult in this institution, and that is bringing people together of both parties—something we need to see a lot more of.

In addition to those policy strengths, he was also and has been one of our greatest political leaders. He served for many years as the DCCC chair and had an encyclopedic knowledge of each and every district in the country belonging to friend or foe alike. He was an extraordinary chair, not only in terms of raising resources, but recruiting some of the finest candidates, and a great many Members of this institution owe their very presence here to his incredible work.

He then became the chair of the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee and was a very effective Member at shaping our message and at helping us articulate what the Democratic Party was about and has been among the most effective surrogates the Democrats have.

In addition to his political expertise and policy expertise, having visited his district and having met his constituents, I know he was also so attuned to the needs of his constituents, particularly the veterans and the homeless, but also in championing the economy and bringing improvements to Long Island Sound. His casework was renowned within New York, and his staff was among the most superb anywhere on the Hill or in any district office.

In addition to all that—and that would be enough for any of us—he also wrote a fabulous novel on his iPhone, “The Global War on Morris.” Who can do that? Who can write a book at all, let alone one on his iPhone, let alone it

gets published by a major publisher and does phenomenally well?

When STEVE retires, this Congress is going to lose another of its great Members, someone of genuine talent, intellect, and integrity, someone who has come to be relied upon by Presidents. We are also going to lose someone with a great sense of humor, who is a wonderful friend and a bit of a practical joker—like the time he convinced his chief of staff that one of his district staff had run over his dog. Yes, STEVE is a cruel man, but funny. We are going to miss him tremendously.

I want to wish him all the luck in the world in the exciting career that awaits him when he retires, and all his new endeavors. I look forward to finding him not in the center aisle necessarily, but in a different aisle in the bookstore near me with his latest work.

I want to join my colleagues in thanking STEVE ISRAEL for his tremendous years of service and for his wonderful friendship. We will all miss him as, indeed, will this entire institution.

TRAGIC LOSS OF AMERICAN LIFE IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am back on the floor again today to discuss the tragic loss of American life in Afghanistan. This past week, I was touched by George Stephanopoulos and ABC as they publicly listed the nine servicemembers that died in Iraq and Afghanistan during the month of November.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names of the nine American heroes.

Sergeant John W. Perry of Stockton, California; Private 1st Class Tyler R. Lubelt of Tamaroa, Illinois; Sergeant 1st Class Ryan A. Gloyer of Greenville, Pennsylvania; Captain Andrew D. Byers of Rousesville, North Carolina; Senior Chief Petty Officer Scott C. Dayton of Woodbridge, Virginia; Specialist Ronald L. Murray, Jr., of Bowie, Maryland; Staff Sergeant James F. Moriarty of Kerrville, Texas; Staff Sergeant Kevin J. McEnroe of Tucson, Arizona; Staff Sergeant Matthew C. Lewellen of Lawrence, Kansas.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I find it quite ironic that the last moment of silence for our men and women in uniform who have died serving this Nation during wartime by the House Chair took place on March 23, 2015, almost 2 years ago. I, frankly, do not understand how House leadership is not more concerned about those who have given their life serving this Nation.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I wrote to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter several weeks ago regarding an article that said that there are 200,000 Afghan soldiers who do not exist—they call them ghosts—who are on the payroll of the Department of Defense. I asked him in the letter: Why are we wasting this money, and can you identify where the money is going?

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD my letter to Secretary Ashton Carter.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 14, 2016.

Hon. ASHTON B. CARTER,
Secretary of Defense,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CARTER: I am responding to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acting) Jeddiah Royal's October 3, 2016, response to the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)'s letter to you (dated August 5, 2016) regarding “ghost soldiers” in Afghanistan.

I am appalled that the U.S. taxpayer has, and continues to pay, for “ghost soldiers” in Afghanistan. Moreover, I am also concerned about the risks that inadequacy of data concerning personnel levels of the Afghan National Security and Defense Forces (ANDSF) may pose to American forces in Afghanistan.

In Deputy Assistant Secretary Royal's response to SIGAR, he indicates the systems that U.S. Forces-Afghanistan are putting in place to try to verify Afghan personnel data will not be ready until at least July 2017. Given the estimate that there may be up to 200,000 “ghost soldiers,” I would respectfully request an estimate of how much funding provided to the ANDSF for salaries in fiscal years 2016 and 2017 is expected to be wasted on “ghost soldiers.”

Additionally, Deputy Assistant Secretary Royal indicates that a limited amount of funds has been withheld from the ANDSF for not adhering to the agreed-upon timeline for implementation of personnel verification systems. How much money was withheld, and what percentage does that number represent of the amount originally designated to be allocated?

Given that many Afghan military and police outposts have limited, if any, access to electricity and telecommunications systems, I would also ask whether there is a contingency plan to back-up the biometric database and personnel system given that units may not always have regular access to the technology needed to operate them? Further, under the current deployment arrangement ordered by President Obama, U.S. forces do not have the capability to witness firsthand, at the lowest levels of the ANDSF, whether there is fraudulent use of the biometric cards. With that in mind, does DOD expect there will be salary overpayments even after July 2017?

I am also concerned about the effect the “ghost soldier” problem is having on U.S. forces in Afghanistan. While the Afghan Minister of Defense was recently quoted as saying there is not a single “ghost soldier” in Afghanistan, the Deputy Assistant Secretary's letter makes clear that is not the case. We know the collapse of the 215th Corps in Helmand in 2015 was at least in part due to an overestimation of ANDSF personnel in Helmand based on inflated numbers reported to the Ministry of Defense. USFOR-A subsequently deployed additional personnel closer to the front lines in Helmand to assist with improving that corps. The “ghost soldier” issue clearly is affecting decision-making within the Defense Department that affects U.S. personnel. I would like to know how DOD plans to mitigate any further risk to U.S. military and civilian personnel that may result from the ongoing “ghost soldier” problem.

Finally, how confident is the Defense Department that the ANDSF and the Afghan government have the capability and the will to effectively implement the new systems, and when will that implementation be fully achieved? When implemented, does the Defense Department expect the “ghost soldier” problem to be eliminated, or merely reduced?

Mr. Secretary, the “ghost soldier” problem has clearly existed in Afghanistan since the

beginning of U.S. operations there. The Defense Department should have known that “ghost soldiers” represented a major risk to American personnel and American taxpayers no later than 2008, when a Government Accountability Office report raised the issue. But year after year, the administration—with far too little oversight from Congress—continues sending tens of millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars to pay the salaries of Afghan military and police, thousands of whom never show up for duty or may not even exist. And now, we are almost \$20 trillion in debt.

After 15 years of wounded and murdered Americans, it is time to bring this waste, fraud and abuse to an end. It is sickening, unaffordable, and it must stop. Many scholars have said that Afghanistan is a graveyard of empires—when this financial disaster finally brings us to our knees, maybe the ghost soldiers can visit the headstone that says United States of America.

Sincerely,

WALTER B. JONES,
Member of Congress.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the reason I mentioned these ghost soldiers is because Americans are still dying in this godforsaken country known as Afghanistan, all while our Nation is headed for an economic collapse as we soon will see the \$20 trillion debt number come forward. For the sake of our military, we need to end this madness in Afghanistan.

I have beside me a photograph of a flag-draped coffin being taken off of an airplane. This is a humble way that I can say to the nine Americans who also came home in a flag-draped coffin in the back of a plane thank you for your service.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to have a debate on the floor of the House as to whether we need to stay in Afghanistan for another 16 years. We have been there for 16 years now.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article that tells the story of Afghanistan better than I can today on the floor. The title of that article is “It’s Time for America to Get Out of Afghanistan.”

[Dec. 2, 2016]

IT’S TIME FOR AMERICA TO GET OUT OF
AFGHANISTAN

(By Mark Kryzer)

“Nation-building” hasn’t achieved lasting goals, Afghans continue to suffer casualties and be displaced, and the costs to the U.S. keep mounting.

After 15 years and \$115 billion of taxpayer dollars spent on failed “nation-building,” it’s time for the U.S. to let go of Afghanistan. (The actual “total cost of war and reconstruction” which includes all U.S. military spending, has been estimated at \$783 billion by the Cost of War project at Brown University.)

The situation in 2016 has been described by one senior U.S. government official as an “eroding stalemate.” That’s optimistic. We are losing whatever has been achieved there and the Afghan government is slowly collapsing under the Taliban onslaught and its own ineptitude driven by corruption.

The Taliban control more territory now than at any time since their overthrow by the U.S. in 2001 with the Afghan government controlling only two-thirds of the country—during daylight hours. Since January 2016, the Taliban have contested five provincial

capitals, carried out some of the largest terrorist attacks in the capital city of Kabul, and have pressed attacks in all 34 provinces of the country, with an average of 68 attacks a day.

As a result, the Afghan army and police forces have incurred about 15,000 casualties so far this year, with civilians suffering more than 5,000 casualties, the highest levels ever recorded. An estimated 1.2 million Afghans have been displaced because of the fighting and are living as refugees in their own country, with another 85,000 opting to leave the country in the first six months of 2016 alone for the migrant trail to Europe.

Adding to the Taliban threat, ISIS has now established itself in two eastern Afghan provinces and Al Qaida operatives are active in seven provinces, according to a recent report in “The Guardian.” With opium production also up by 43 percent in the country, there is no shortage of funds to fuel the insurgency and corruption.

According to a 2016 World Bank report, the social and economic gains achieved with international assistance over the last 15 years are also quickly eroding due to war and corruption.

The Obama administration has opted to leave 8,400 troops in Afghanistan in 2016 in a support role to the Afghan army, down from a high of 100,000 in 2010. And the U.S. completely pays for the Afghan army and police forces. On the civilian side of reconstruction, the U.S. continues to pour money into the country for “nation-building.” At the Brussels Afghanistan “Donors Conference” in early October, the international community pledged another \$15 billion in support; the U.S. is the largest contributor.

Given the abysmal results achieved so far, isn’t it time to re-evaluate U.S. foreign policy goals in Afghanistan? Recently, a group of U.S. generals and former U.S. ambassadors to Afghanistan announced that a “generational commitment” of assistance was still required of the American people toward Afghanistan to see it securely to the end goal of . . . what? Nobody can give a coherent answer to that question, indicating that we have seriously lost our way.

Most Americans have forgotten about Afghanistan (or no longer want to hear about it) and are not aware of the ongoing costs in American lives and resources. It’s time for the next American president to drastically change direction and explain it to the American people.

That direction should be to start the pull-out of Afghanistan after 15 years of failure to achieve any lasting policy objectives there. The U.S. should immediately stop the multitude of civilian “nation-building” programs that have been so costly and failed to achieve their unrealistic goals. U.S. funding for the Afghan army and police forces should be put on a diminishing schedule that would stop entirely after two years, forcing Afghanistan to finally stand or fall on its own.

It’s time to let go of Afghanistan and end the 15-year drain on American lives and resources.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I ask God to bless our men and women in uniform, and I ask God to continue to bless America.

PUTTING FLORIDA FIRST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GRAHAM) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am so very fortunate to have grown up in a family dedicated to public service. I watched and learned from my father as

he served as a State legislator, Florida’s Governor, and as a United States Senator, and from my mother who worked tirelessly as an advocate for students and seniors. Together, they were a team that always put Florida first.

Following in their footsteps, I served my community as a PTA volunteer, and I worked for my local school district. While I was happy to serve, I never planned to follow in my father’s footsteps into politics. But as our country became more divided, my thoughts began to change. Like so many Americans, I was disappointed to see our Nation’s civil discourse deteriorate to shouting matches on cable news and gridlock in government.

In 2013, I decided to run for office with my own message and my own mission: to bring back civility, to work with both parties to actually get things done, and to always put the people of Florida first.

□ 1015

I ran for office to bring the north Florida way to Washington. Almost 4 years after making that decision, I am proud to say we have had many successes in our own mission.

After winning my election, I immediately began reaching out to my Florida colleagues, Republicans and Democrats. I am proud to say that those friendships have paid off to the benefit of Florida.

We were able to recruit almost the entire State delegation to support our Apalachicola Bay Restoration Act. I cosponsored legislation with Congressman PATRICK MURPHY to protect the Everglades and with Congressman DAVID JOLLY to ban oil drilling off the coast of Florida.

I asked to serve on the committees that were most important to my district—the Armed Services Committee and the Agriculture Committee.

On the Armed Services Committee we were able to make substantial legislative gains. We were able to amend the National Defense Authorization Act with initiatives to protect programs that helped Florida’s economy, create jobs, and strengthen our national security, as well as the work we have done to improve our relationship with Israel, including authorizing a joint anti-tunneling program to fight terrorism and to protect both of our countries’ borders.

On the House Agriculture Committee, I work closely with farmers across the State. I will never forget our 14-county north Florida farm tour, where I tried my own hand at planting peanuts and even pregnancy checked a cow. I am so proud of the work we did to bring the U.S. Department of Agriculture Strike Force program to Florida, which will help rural counties to protect their communities, to grow their economies, and to create jobs.

While we have had many successes in Washington, I am even more proud of the work we have accomplished in

Florida. Our focus on constituent services and cutting through bureaucratic redtape has paid off. We have helped return almost \$2 million in benefits owed to Florida seniors and families, including more than half-a-million dollars to veterans.

While the numbers are impressive, the stories behind them are what really count. Stories like Kenneth McCray, a Vietnam veteran who was denied benefits by the VA until our office stepped in to help. In every vote and in every way, we always put the people of Florida first.

While working in Congress, the people of north Florida have never let me down. I have felt their love and support in each hug, whether at a press conference or along a parade route. I have witnessed their compassion after Hurricane Hermine, when neighbors helped neighbors clear debris and sheltered those in need. I have seen local leaders put partisanship aside to fight for our communities.

We call this the north Florida way, but we don't have a monopoly on that spirit. It is the essence of the American spirit. I have witnessed a bit of it here in Washington. Between campaigns and commercial breaks, I have seen that Republicans and Democrats can actually like one another. If we can begin talking to each other again instead of shouting at each other, we can move our country forward in a way that helps every American.

So, as I prepare to leave Congress, I offer up this parting advice to new and veteran Members. Take the time to form friendships, put partisanship aside, and always put the people you represent first.

Now that I have shared this advice, I would like to end my speech by saying thank you. Thank you to my committed staff, my family, and, most importantly, I want to thank the people of north Florida's Second Congressional District. I am so thankful to them for giving me the opportunity to serve. Running for Congress and serving in the House has been an enriching experience with many workdays, possum festivals, and parades along the way.

I am sad it is coming to an end, but this moment is bittersweet. I will always treasure the friendships and experience I have gained in Congress. I know that as this chapter closes, another opens, and I will continue to serve my community and the people of Florida for as long as I am able.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, as I think all of us know, today marks the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor; a devastating event that took the lives of more than 2,300 Americans and ultimately led, of course, to the

United States' entrance into World War II.

Though it is painful to think of all the brave men and women we lost that day, I am grateful for this heroic generation of soldiers, including my own father, who served in defense of the freedoms of our country during World War II. I wear my father's wings. I have them on today. I wear them every day. My mom and dad love their country and they, like so many others, sacrificed so much. It was examples of heroes such as these that led me to make the decision when I was a young man to become a pilot in the Air Force.

I would like to take a moment and share the story of one brave Utahn, Mervyn Bennion, who was stationed at Pearl Harbor on the day of the attack. After graduating from high school in Salt Lake City, Bennion accepted his appointment to the United States Naval Academy, where he graduated near the top of his class. He later assumed command of the USS *West Virginia* in July of 1941.

The ship was moored with other vessels on Battleship Row on that Sunday morning. Just shy of 8 a.m., Japanese forces struck the USS *West Virginia* with at least six torpedoes and two bombs.

Under attack and struggling to organize a defense from the bridge, Captain Bennion was struck with shrapnel from one of these bombs; but, still, he continued to direct the ship's battle while using one of his hands to hold his own wounds closed. Several sailors attempted to convince him to go to the first-aid station and seek medical attention, but he refused to leave his post. Sadly, he later died from a loss of blood.

Captain Bennion was recognized with the Medal of Honor—our Nation's highest military honor—for his "conspicuous devotion to duty, extraordinary courage, and complete disregard for his own life."

Today, on the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, let us remember not only the brave men and women who lost their lives in that attack, but also those who have continued to fight for our freedoms for the last 75 years.

In dark and dangerous places all around the globe, American soldiers, sailors, and airmen are doing what they can to bring stability and safety to many parts of the world. We should remember them. We should thank them. We should keep them and their families in our prayers. What we have asked them to do is not easy. They deserve our gratitude and our respect.

CONGRATULATING COMPLETION OF THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU RECORDS PROJECT

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to congratulate the completion of the Freedmen's Bureau Records Project.

The Freedmen's Bureau was organized by Congress in 1865 at the conclusion of the Civil War. It offered assistance to freed slaves in a variety of ways. The Bureau opened schools to

educate the illiterate. It managed hospitals, it rationed food and clothing for the destitute, and it even solemnized marriages. In the process, it gathered priceless handwritten personal information on potentially 4 million African Americans.

Due to the work and commitment of over 25,000 volunteers, with the help of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and FamilySearch International, they have been able to uncover the names and stories of over 1.9 million freed slaves. In some cases, for the very first time, African Americans are able to discover their Civil War-era families through an online and searchable database.

I was especially pleased to attend an event yesterday where the newly indexed database of the Freedmen's Bureau Records was delivered to the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

If I could just divert for a moment, I would like to share a story from this experience from one of the leaders of the museum, and I hope he will forgive me for stealing his story and repeating it to you. This gentleman told of how his grandparents passed away when he was very young. He had no memory of his grandparents, except for going to his grandmother's house and watching her cook on some old tin cookie sheets.

But as he was able to, for the first time, research his own family records, he found the records of one of his ancestors who was a slave; and part of those records was an accounting of money that was paid to her and some of the things that she was able to purchase. One of them was a line which recorded that she paid 22 cents for a set of tin cookie sheets. What an emotional moment it was for him to have that connection now with his ancestors that he would not have been able to otherwise.

The Freedmen's Bureau Records Project allows families to discover their ancestors. It allows them to connect with them. It allows them to see the heroes among their ancestors that so many of them have.

I would like to congratulate and thank the thousands of volunteers who sacrificed their time in this wonderful project.

HONORING REID RIBBLE AND RICHARD HANNA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have been privileged to serve with many exceptional people during my tenure in Congress. This year, there are a number of my Democratic colleagues who are leaving who will be sorely missed. We just heard from one—GWEN GRAHAM. And LOIS CAPPS is in a chair in front of me and will be speaking soon.

Today I would like to take a moment to recognize two exceptional friends of mine on the other side of the aisle, Republicans who enriched my time in Congress and brought honor to this body. I rise today to speak of the service of RICHARD HANNA and REID RIBBLE. These two gentlemen represent small town America—rural Upstate New York, in the case of RICHARD; and Green Bay, Wisconsin, and surrounding environments in the case of REID.

They have a number of similarities. They are both hardworking, dedicated Members of this Chamber, who leave after only three terms. They are fiercely dedicated to their family, and family concerns figured heavily into their decision not to seek reelection.

They have both been very successful businesspeople, building their own enterprises; taking pride, in the case of REID, in the employment and terrific service from a roofing company; and RICHARD, founding and growing a construction enterprise.

Both are accomplished in a broad range of other areas. RICHARD is a pilot who travels across the country piloting his own plane. REID recently completed a motorcycle trip from Alaska, all the way across North America to the Florida Keys; most of it with his wife riding along with him.

They are both what normally would have been regarded as conservative Republicans. That description really belies their approach and their value to the institution. In some respects, they may actually entertain some libertarian leanings. But they believe in less interference, whether it is liberal overreach or zealotry of the other extreme. RICHARD is equally disdainful of government telling women what they and their doctors should do with women's bodies.

They are both deeply concerned about budgets and the economy—core Republican values in the past—with REID famously, in an exchange with some of his Tea Party constituents, indicating that they weren't fair to their grandchildren by refusing to even consider raising the gas tax to meet our transportation needs, and he made an eloquent case.

RICHARD has been a partner with me for the last two Congresses as we work with transportation stakeholders to try to inform one another and find common ground, working forward on solutions to common problems of rebuilding and renewing America.

I fully respect the decision of both gentlemen to follow their instincts and their families to the next phase of their careers, but their decision to end congressional service weakens this institution. The fact that we could not find enough incentive to keep them here, being productive and adding their wisdom and energy, says something about the challenges that this Congress faces in the years ahead.

Serving with them has been a remarkable pleasure. They have helped both Republicans and Democrats func-

tion a little better in a largely dysfunctional climate. They have both given good advice to their Republican colleagues, which I hope, as they leave, will find greater resonance with those who are left.

We are going through a great period of a national civics lesson, where Americans discover that elections have consequences, that facts really should matter, and voters need to be very discerning about the decisions they make.

RICHARD HANNA and REID RIBBLE have helped, through their service, to advance that civics lesson. I will be grateful to them for as long as I am a citizen, and I look forward to years of friendship in the future and maybe ways to advance that national civics lesson that they speak to so eloquently by their service.

□ 1030

WRDA CONFERENCE REPORT: WATER FOR CALIFORNIA; FIRE PROTECTION FOR TAHOE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the conference report on the Water Resources Development Act is the product of many hours of good faith negotiations between the House and the Senate and between Republicans and Democrats. Like any compromise, I don't like everything that is in it, but the net effect is an important step forward in protecting against the devastation of future droughts in California and catastrophic wildfire that threatens Lake Tahoe.

It provides \$335 million for desperately needed surface water storage. It opens a new era of hatcheries to provide for burgeoning populations of endangered fish species. It adds flexibility to the management of New Melones Reservoir and enables water transfers to assure that water can be more efficiently moved to where it is the most needed. It adds strong protection to northern California area of origin water rights. It expedites the review and approval of new projects. It updates flood control management criteria to make better use of our existing reservoirs.

I particularly want to highlight the provisions related to Lake Tahoe. For many years, we have spent enormous resources to adjust drainage in the basin to improve water clarity at the lake. The Senate version of the measure, which was introduced this session by Senators HELLER and FEINSTEIN, continued this effort; but the Heller-Feinstein bill neglected the most immediate environmental threat to Lake Tahoe, and that is catastrophic wildfire. The Senate bill had no provision for forest management, specifically for fire prevention.

The number of acres burned by wildfire in the Lake Tahoe Basin has in-

creased each decade since 1973, including a tenfold increase over the past decade. Eighty percent of the Tahoe Basin forests are now densely and dangerously overgrown. They are dying. At lower elevations, there are now four times as many trees as the land can support. Modeling by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit warns that, in two-thirds of the forest, conditions now exist for flame size and intensity that are literally explosive. If a super fire of the size we have seen in other parts of the Sierra were to strike the Tahoe Basin, it could decimate this lake and its surroundings for a generation to come.

For this reason, Congressman AMODEI and I introduced a bill focused on fire prevention. This measure was specifically designed, after extensive input from fire districts throughout the Tahoe region, to reduce excess fuel before it burns. It provides for expediting collaborative fuel reduction projects consistent with the Lake Tahoe Land and Resource Management Plan, and it calls for funds generated by timber sales and other fee-based revenues to stay in the Tahoe Basin to provide for further fuels management and other improvements.

This was falsely portrayed by left-wing activists in the region as a substitute for the Senate bill. As Congressman AMODEI and I made clear repeatedly, it was designed to supplement that bill and fill a glaring deficiency that ignored the single greatest environmental hazard to the lake.

I am very pleased to note that the critical provisions of both bills—for lake clarity and fire prevention—are now in the conference report, thanks to bipartisan negotiations between House and Senate negotiators, most notably by Senator FEINSTEIN and House Majority Leader McCARTHY.

Unfortunately, in the last 48 hours, Senator BOXER has threatened to blindside this effort and destroy the fruit of these years of labor and endless hours of negotiation. She has threatened to assemble enough votes, not to put forward a positive and credible plan of her own to address these critical needs but, rather, to ruin the painstaking negotiations of many others just as they are coming to fruition.

In the last 4 years, the King Fire, the Butte Fire, the Rough Fire, and the Rim Fire have destroyed more than 1,000 square miles of forest in the Sierra Nevada. If we don't restore sound forest management for fire prevention in the Tahoe Basin now, the next fire could reduce its magnificent forests to cinders and clog the lake with ash and debris for decades to come. We can only pray that wiser heads prevail in the Senate and that this conference report is speedily adopted by both Houses and signed into law by the President.

MY TENURE AS RESIDENT COMMISSIONER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, after 8 years, this will be my last floor speech as the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Congress. I want to thank my constituents for giving me the opportunity to serve as their voice in Washington. They are enduring difficult times, but they never lose their hope, dignity, or appreciation for life's blessings.

I also want to thank my colleagues in the House and the Senate. I respect your dedication to public service, energy, and commitment to the causes you champion. In addition, I want to thank my staff, which has served me and the people of Puerto Rico with skill, passion, and loyalty.

Most importantly, I want to thank my wife, Maria-Elena; my four children; and the rest of my family. They have walked alongside me on this journey through the peaks and valleys, and my love for them cannot be captured with words.

It is impossible to condense 8 action-packed years into 5 minutes. However, if there is a central theme to my tenure as Resident Commissioner, it has been "fighting the good fight" on behalf of the 3.4 million American citizens in Puerto Rico, who have been treated unfairly for too long.

In an example of baptism by fire, the battle began almost as soon as I assumed office in 2009, when Congress was debating the stimulus bill known as ARRA. Even as I was still learning to navigate my way through the Capitol, we managed to secure virtually State-like treatment for Puerto Rico, injecting almost \$7 billion into the island's economy when we needed it most.

The fight continued the following year with the Affordable Care Act, which resulted in the largest funding increase in history for Puerto Rico's Medicaid program. Separately, we secured legislative and administrative action that eliminated many of the disparities that Puerto Rico faced under the Medicare program.

I am also proud of our work to combat drug-related violence in Puerto Rico, requiring the Federal Government to prepare the Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy and persuading Federal lawsuit agencies to increase their resources in Puerto Rico. The number of homicides on the island was cut in half between 2011 and 2015. But this is not about statistics. It is about preserving human life.

Moreover, I have tried my best to serve those who have served us. Residents of Puerto Rico have a rich military tradition, and no unit exemplifies their courage and character better than the 65th Infantry Regiment, which fought the enemy on the battlefield and discrimination in the barracks. After we enacted legislation to award them the Congressional Gold Medal, these warriors—now in the twilight of their lives—stood beside Presi-

dent Obama as he signed the bill into law and were honored at a ceremony in the Capitol, one that I will never forget.

The toughest fight of my tenure came earlier this year when Congress and the White House worked together to enact legislation, called PROMESA, to prevent the Government of Puerto Rico from collapsing. Nobody was pleased that such legislation was necessary, and nobody liked every provision in the bill, but I firmly believe that PROMESA, if properly implemented, provides a path to a better future for Puerto Rico.

I close with this thought: Puerto Rico's current territory status, which gives Congress license to treat my constituents like second class citizens, is undignified and unsustainable.

Following a 2012 local referendum in which island residents expressed their opposition to the current status and their support for statehood, Congress enacted legislation that provided funding for the first federally sponsored referendum in Puerto Rico's history. The significance of this achievement has yet to be sufficiently appreciated. Puerto Rico should use this authority to conduct a vote on whether the territories should become a State. If the people of Puerto Rico ratify their support for statehood, as I expect they will, it will be incumbent upon Congress to implement that result. This country, which was founded on the principles of equality and justice, must live up to its creed.

May God bless Puerto Rico and the United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSE ABEYTA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Jose Abeyta of Montrose, Colorado, who passed away on November 14, 2016. Jose is survived by his wife, Loretta, whom he married 40 years ago, and they have two sons, Lenny and Juan.

Jose was a personal friend of mine and was a beloved member of his community. He served our country proudly during the Vietnam war from 1969 to 1971, as a fixed wing mechanic for the Army's 358th Aviation Detachment. He received an honorable discharge after serving for 2 years. Mr. Abeyta was a hero for the time he spent in the Army, but the life he lived after his service showed us what an honorable man and model citizen he truly was.

Jose married Loretta 1 month after returning home from Vietnam, and they moved to Colorado Springs, where he went to school and earned a degree in sociology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Mr. Abeyta paid his own way through school. He and Loretta then moved back to Montrose, where he began his career as a probation officer. He later ran suc-

cessfully for the city council in 2006 and served as the mayor of Montrose in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, it was not just his work that defined who Mr. Abeyta was. It was the devotion to serving others. As a husband, a father, a war veteran, a little league coach, and a public servant, he lived a life full of selfless service and stood as an example for all Americans to live by. He started out as the new guy in Montrose, and he ended up serving as the mayor, which speaks volumes about the impact he had on his community.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by Jose's passing because he was an irreplaceable figure in Montrose, but I am grateful that I had the opportunity to know him. His family is in my thoughts and prayers, and I hope that the community of Montrose will continue to celebrate his tremendous accomplishments in the weeks and months to come. Jose Abeyta will be missed.

END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving, back in Massachusetts, I participated in the seventh annual Monte's March, which is a 43-mile walk to raise awareness about hunger in our community and to raise money for The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

The leader of this remarkable event is Monte Belmonte, a well-known local radio personality with WRSI, the River, and a committed activist on behalf of those who are most vulnerable. This year, the march raised a record \$211,213. This translates into over a half a million meals for individuals and families who struggle with food insecurity. I was impressed by the stamina of all of those who walked and by the incredible generosity of the community.

The sad reality is that there is no congressional district in the United States that is hunger free, and those who battle hunger defy stereotypes. Some are homeless; some are jobless; but there are many who work but who earn so little that they can't afford to put food on the table on a regular basis for their families.

While food banks and food pantries and charitable organizations are vital in our efforts to combat hunger, they cannot do it alone. We need a strong commitment by our government to do its part. Indeed, I would argue that we have fallen way short of doing what is needed to ensure that no one goes hungry. Those whom I marched alongside during Monte's March are good people who understand what it means to truly be part of a community.

I want to thank, first and foremost, the incredible Monte Belmonte and all of the people at the River, including Mark Lattanzi, Joan Holliday, Michael Sokol, Kaliis Smith, Dave Musante,

and Matt Peterson. They are amazing people who worked overtime to make this march a success.

I am grateful to Andrew Morehouse, the executive director of The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, and to everyone at the food bank. They do incredible work.

Thanks to all of the elected officials who joined part of the march, including my colleagues, Congressmen RICHIE NEAL and JOE KENNEDY. We were also joined by State Representatives Steve Kulik and Aaron Vega, State Representative-elect Solomon Goldstein-Rose, as well as by Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz and District Attorney Dave Sullivan.

We kicked off the march at Friends of the Homeless in Springfield, and I am grateful for all that they do. The Sheriff's Departments in Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties, as well as the Deerfield Police, helped provide escorts for us during all 43 miles.

A special thanks to the students who joined the march from Greenfield Center School, HEC Academy, Conway Grammar School, and Erving Elementary. We were joined by a contingent from Greenfield Community College, which included its president, Bob Pura. We also had a group of farmers from The Kitchen Garden in Sunderland who joined the effort.

Sean Barry, from Four Seasons Liquors in Hadley, was, as usual, Monte's right-hand man and always at the front of the line. We had a large group of individuals who marched and raised a lot of money. Thanks to all of them. My friend Chia Collins of Northampton deserves special credit for raising the most.

Thanks to all of the people who greeted us along the way, including Karen Blanchard of Kate's Kitchen, Andrea Marion at Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry, Mindy Domb at the Amherst Survival Center, Lori Divine and Vitek Kruta at Gateway City Arts, Chancellor Subbaswamy at UMass Amherst and his top aide Natalie Blais, who marched 27 miles with us.

□ 1045

We are grateful to Northampton Brewery for a wonderful dinner on Monday, Chandler's in Deerfield for a great lunch on Tuesday, Richardson's Candy Kitchen in Deerfield for the indulgent chocolates that gave us energy, and all the folks at Seymour's in Greenfield for the magnificent celebration at the end of the march. Also, a special thanks to Tea Guys for their wonderful tea in honor of the march and for their generosity.

Thanks to Ben Clark from Clarkdale Fruit Farm in Deerfield for the apples and for keeping us in line. Thanks to Erika Connell Cooper's mother for the delicious apple pies. And thank you to Mr. Michael Brooks and the students at the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton for

making the shopping carts we used during the march.

Mr. Speaker, I was glad to be part of this, but I want to close by expressing my deep concern about the future. I remain worried about rumors of more cuts to SNAP or separating SNAP from the farm bill or weakening child nutrition. With so many relying on these programs to help put food on the table, these cuts would be devastating for families across the country. We must protect and strengthen these programs.

I believe food ought to be a right for every single individual in this country and on the planet, but the sad reality is that it isn't. All of us need to do better. All of us need to care more. All of us need to recognize our moral failings in not addressing this issue sooner.

So on behalf of the dedicated crew that took part in Monte's March, I urge all of us in Congress to act and end hunger now.

IN HONOR OF DAVID HOWLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Howle.

For the past 29 years, Coach Howle has served as the head football coach for the Bunn High School Wildcats in Franklin County. During that time, Coach Howle had unprecedented success, amassing 214 wins and just 90 losses. He has had 45 players go on to play at the collegiate level, a nearly unheard of number for an AA high school.

While Coach Howle built the Bunn football program into a regional powerhouse, it is more important to recognize the impact he has had on thousands of students, parents, and staff in the Bunn community. His expectation of his players to work hard, not just on the field, Mr. Speaker, but also in the classroom, translated into a 99 percent graduation rate for his student athletes.

Coach Howle has famously told his team, "show me your friends and I'll show you your future," encouraging his players not just to be good citizens, but also to be productive members of society.

And no matter the outcome of any game—win, loss, or draw—Coach Howle was always there to encourage his players to keep their heads up and to look to the future as the team ended every game with the Bunn High School fight song followed by the Lord's prayer.

David Howle exemplifies what the thousands of dedicated educators in North Carolina do every day. The lessons Coach Howle taught and the difference he made in thousands of lives will be remembered in his community for years to come.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House one last time as a Member of Congress. Over 18 years ago, I was honored and humbled to be elected to this House. It has been the job and the responsibility of a lifetime.

After a career spent as a nurse and in our public schools as a school nurse, it was the start of a life I never expected, but I was eager to answer the call to public service on behalf of the citizens of the central coast of California. It was the same call that had beckoned my husband, Walter, before me. He was a religious studies professor who felt compelled to serve. Like Walter, I sought to help restore the bonds of trust between the people and their government.

While the circumstances of my joining Congress were unexpected, it has been a tremendous honor to serve with all of you over these years. Together with our colleagues, our dedicated staff, and our constituents, I have been proud to work on behalf of issues so important to our congressional district on the central coast of California, issues important also to our entire Nation.

We have worked hard to ensure that everyone has the chance to fulfill their American Dream, while moving our economy and our country forward. We have fought to protect women's rights, strengthen families, and push for equality. We have made great strides in making health care more accessible and affordable so that no one has to go bankrupt just because they get sick. And we have championed a clean energy future while protecting our beautiful landscapes, our coastlines, and our precious natural resources for future generations.

In recent months, I have often been asked what I will miss most about serving in Congress. While there is much to miss, the answer is easy: it is the people. To me, this job has always been and always will be about the people: the people we represent, the people who work so hard to keep this place going, the people on my staff over the years who have been so dedicated to making our community and our country just a little bit better—and the people I serve with here, you, my colleagues.

It has been such a privilege and pleasure to get to know you and work alongside many of you over the years, learning more about your districts, your backgrounds, and your families. After all, isn't this what Congress was meant to be? You, my colleagues, coming from all over the country, from all walks of life, to represent your neighbors and communities in this place, this Congress, to work together for the good of our Nation.

During my time in Congress, I have been so proud of those laws we have

passed that have made a real difference in people's lives. When I am home, I often hear about the positive impact of our work, the role our office has played in the district, the difference our efforts have made in individual lives.

I am proud of the progress we have made as a country, but we need to keep this momentum going. As we all know, cooperation and progress is not always easy, but it is what we are sent here to do and it is what we must do, regardless of partisanship. We are here, each one, because we believe in the role of government to make the lives of everyday Americans better, and that has been my guiding light both as a Member of Congress and as a nurse before.

As I have said, I may be retiring, but I do not want to consider myself retired. I prefer to say I am graduating to continue working locally on issues that have defined my time in Congress.

Our work is cut out for us, but I am deeply optimistic about what the future holds. I trust that the next Congress will hold healthy debates about how to build a better country for our children. I urge my colleagues to remember that, even during the most trying times, as my husband Walter often said: There is much more that unites us as a people than that which divides us.

Now I want to take one last opportunity to thank my staff, the people who have become family to me both here in D.C. and in the district. And I want to thank you, my colleagues, for your camaraderie, your hard work, and the friendship that has lasted over 18 years. It has meant the world to me.

And finally, thank you. Thank you, truly, to the people of the central coast for trusting me as your Representative, for inspiring me every single day with your passion and your dedication for our Nation and for California's 24th District. You make our community a place in which I have been proud to raise my children and my grandchildren now, one I am proud to call home.

8-YEAR ASSAULT ON AMERICA'S COAL INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mark the end of a long, harsh, partisan, politicized campaign, unprecedented in American history. I am not talking about the recent election. No. We are finally at the end of the Obama administration's 8-year assault on Kentucky's and America's coal industry.

In two terms, President Obama's policies have successfully put thousands of coal miners and utility workers into the unemployment line. In 2008, then-candidate Obama pledged that any company looking to build a coal-powered electric plant would be bankrupted. The combined regulations of the EPA, the Army Corps of Engi-

neers, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and several other bureaucracies have turned that pledge into a reality, choking off investment in new state-of-the-art, clean-burning, coal-fired electric generation; and it led to the premature closing of existing plants.

If we continue on this path, the other promise made by candidate Obama will also come to pass: electricity rates will necessarily skyrocket. And that would be a disaster for consumers, for whom energy prices are often the second or third largest line item in the family budget.

I also think about industrial consumers and the many manufacturers in my district and around the Nation who depend on affordable, reliable energy that will face skyrocketing costs if we fail to act and reverse these administration policies. However, it is a new day; and voters—particularly in the Rust Belt and Appalachia—turned out in November to close the book on this legacy of job-killing regulation and to seek a new path forward.

President Obama said that elections have consequences, and this is true; but his administration ignored every electoral outcome since 2010, doubling down on failed policies while the American people called for a different approach.

The inverse is also true: consequences drive elections. The consequences of the Obama administration's unilateral decisions decided last November's election, and no place in this country felt those consequences as acutely as coal country.

National coal production is at its lowest level in 35 years. Pike County, the long leading coal producer in Kentucky, until losing that title in 2012, is down 89 percent since its peak in 1996. Nationwide, consumption of coal has dropped nearly a third since 2007.

In Kentucky, coal employment hit its lowest level in 118 years. To repeat, coal employment in Kentucky is now at its lowest level since 1898. In 2009, 18,850 people were employed by coal. About 73,000 jobs were indirectly supported by that economic activity. Today, only about 6,500 Kentuckians now work in the coalfields, and those losses have rippled throughout the economy. Yet this is the legacy that this administration will earn as it leaves office.

Never in the history of our country has an administration singled out and targeted a lawful industry—in this case, an industry that has provided jobs and opportunities for American workers for generations, an industry that has literally powered America, and, through that overregulation, crushed an entire sector of our economy.

Now, Obama administration apologists will say that depletion in Appalachian coalfields and new competition from natural gas are the primary factors in those job losses, but they don't give the regulators enough credit. The

turnaround in natural gas production on State and private lands has been dramatic, to be sure, but relative price parity with coal does not explain two-thirds of mining jobs in Kentucky disappearing in 7 years.

The administration has targeted coal supply and demand, prohibiting production leases, rejecting mining permit applications, stretching the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts against congressional intent, prohibiting new and existing plants from using coal—the list goes on and on.

Many of these rules have been halted or overturned by the courts, and several more remain subject to challenge by the States and industry; but since the President could not get Congress' support for his agenda of banning the production and use of coal, most of these regulations can be unwound by the courts or the next administration.

I urge the incoming Trump administration to do just that and to engage with Congress in a bipartisan fashion on our Nation's energy and environmental policies. The livelihoods of people in the coalfields, of those working in the manufacturing and rail industries, of families trying to keep their homes warm and their lights on must never again be the collateral damage in partisan warfare.

I must address the issue of climate change. Let the last 8 years serve as a lesson to all of us. Let's never again attempt to solve problems through central planning by punishing innocent Americans whose paychecks put food on their table. Instead, let's address problems like climate change the American way: not through central planning or government, but through innovation, science, technology.

While it will be a tough road back for coal country and it may never be the same after 8 years of regulatory attack, I do look forward to a new day dawning in the coalfields.

ROBERT LEVINSON STILL MISSING IN IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the holiday season is upon us. We are getting ready to head home to spend time with family and friends, yet I rise today with a heavy heart.

For the family of my constituent Robert Levinson of Coral Springs, Florida, these weeks are a painful reminder of another Thanksgiving, another Christmas—their 10th, in fact—without their father, grandfather, and husband.

□ 1100

Bob has been missing in Iran for 3,561 days. He disappeared from Kish Island, Iran, on March 9, 2007. Late that year, Bob's wife, Christine, and his oldest son Dan traveled to Iran to learn as much as they could about his whereabouts.

It was a brutal 3-year wait for the first proof of life, a video of Bob

dressed in an orange jumpsuit, pleading for help. A year later, in 2011, another proof of life, pictures of Bob, his beard long, his face thin, his gregarious smile gone, a shadow of the exuberant family man in this photograph.

In March, marking the ninth anniversary of Bob's disappearance, south Florida came together in support of Bob's return with a rally. Each of Bob's children spoke so beautifully about the special relationship that they share with their father, his commitment to his family, his words of wisdom, his ability to touch the lives of everyone that he meets.

Bob Levinson served this country for nearly 30 years, first as a DEA agent, and then as an FBI agent. He is the definition of a patriot. He loves this country. He dedicated his life to public service. Now we must do whatever we can to bring Bob home; home to Christine, his wife of over 40 years; home to his daughters Susan, Stephanie, Sarah, and Samantha; home to his three sons, Dan, David, and Doug, and son-in-law Randy; home to meet, for the first time, the newest members of his growing family, his sons-in-law and daughter-in-law, Ralph, Ryan, and Sophia, and his six beautiful grandchildren, Ryan, Grace, Caroline, Harry, Sean, and Bobby; home in time for the birth of two new grandchildren; and home in time to hold 2-year-old Bobby as he begins treatment for lymphoma.

Bobby was named after Grandpa Bob. Bob's daughter Susan said: I always wanted to name my son after my dad not because he has been taken, but because growing up I always knew how special my dad is.

The family needs Bob home. We can't wait any longer. Whether you support engagement with Iran or not doesn't matter. The fact is, for the first time since Bob went missing, the United States Government sits directly across the table from their Iranian counterparts.

The future of our relationship with Iran is uncertain. That is why we can't wait. The Iranians have spent the last 2 years seeking acceptance from the international community, but to be treated as a responsible nation, they must act as a responsible nation. After Iran released other Americans this year, the U.S. Government announced Iran's commitment to use newly established channels to move us closer to Bob's return, but, 11 months later, Iran has not fulfilled that commitment.

Our allies are looking to invest in Iran. U.S. businesses are seeking new economic opportunities, and Iran is seeking to change its standing in the world. I am not here today to debate U.S. policy. I am only here to remind Iran and to remind the world that an American is still not home.

I am grateful to this Congress for the unanimous passage of a resolution earlier this year calling on the Government of Iran to find Bob and bring him home and for the deep, deep support so many of my colleagues have offered the

Levinson family. I don't want to have to introduce that legislation again next year. I don't want to come back to the House floor in 2017 to plead for Bob's return. This is the moment for action. This is the time to bring Bob home.

When the Levinson children were growing up, they would pile into the family Suburban before Christmas in search of the best holiday decoration displays. The kids would sit back singing Christmas songs, and Bob would hold Christine's hand while he drove. Even though the family has grown too large to fit in one Suburban now, Bob and his family deserve to see the lights together this year. They deserve to sing together. This must be the last season that Bob spends away from his family.

CELEBRATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. HUELSKAMP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, this year my parish, Holy Cross Catholic Church in Hutchinson, Kansas, is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Sixty years ago, then-Bishop of Wichita, Most Reverend Mark K. Carroll, proclaimed Holy Cross Parish to be the third parish in Hutchinson. On June 23, 1957, the church celebrated their first mass in a 4-H building.

Holy Cross Parish has come a long way from that first mass held on the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Now a beautiful church adorned with holy images, the parish serves Christ's people from the moment they are born with the Sacrament of Baptism, to feeding them with the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist, to couples exchanging marriage vows, to those seeking forgiveness in the confessional, and, finally, to when we prepare to meet our Lord at the end of our earthly lives. At each milestone of a Catholic's life, Holy Cross Catholic Church is there to guide us toward the truth: to know, love, and serve the Lord in this life so as to be with Him in the next.

The work of the Holy Cross community certainly extends outside the church walls. The parish is present in the community, serving meals to the needy, visiting inmates in prison, working to save the lives of the precious unborn children, and comforting those who grieve.

Additionally, education has always been a high priority for the Holy Cross Parish. Hundreds upon hundreds of boys and girls, young men and women, have received a superb Catholic education at Holy Cross Catholic School and Trinity Catholic High School. Dedicated teachers, administrators, coaches, committed families, holy priests and nuns, and supportive parishioners have worked together to prepare each of these students to serve as Christ's light to the world. The fami-

lies that make up Holy Cross Catholic Church are a living example of individuals who live out their faith in their work and their daily lives.

Our country was founded on Judeo-Christian principles. The First Amendment guarantees the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of conscience. It is my sincere hope that, as America moves forward, our leaders will place the issue of religious liberty at the forefront of their political and legislative agendas.

On this 60th anniversary of Holy Cross Catholic Church, it is my prayer that the parish will continue to grow and thrive, welcome new members, and share the Gospel with the world.

THE WAR ON SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the growing antiscience attitude in Washington. This attitude has manifested itself even on the cover of the respected National Geographic magazine, titled "The War on Science." The war on science is being conducted in two ways. First, by rejecting or trying to discredit legitimate science. Second, by reducing Federal science funding.

Skepticism of science is hardly new and is sometimes well founded, but what is happening today is different and is part of a trend in the United States to discount or disbelieve experts in any field. I hear from scientists who are very worried that the quality and quantity of science produced in this country will decline as a result.

American inventors and innovators have improved our lives and have given our country an economic edge, helping make us the strongest country in the world. Let me share a partial list of revolutionary achievements by American scientists: airplanes, phonographs, practical incandescent lamps, wireless communications, microwave ovens, lasers, personal computers, washing machines, cyclotrons, 3D printing machines, polio vaccinations, the nuclear bomb, light-emitting diodes or LEDs, fiber optic cables, mobile telephones, computer mouse, public key cryptography, global positioning systems or GPS, and social media.

Now let's recall an earlier battle against science that used the discredit tactic; namely, the tobacco companies' effort to dispute the science that smoking is addictive and causes deadly diseases. The tobacco industry tried to both discredit and threaten the scientists who were advancing the facts, and funded questionable scientists to create doubts about the actual scientific results. The tactic worked for a time while tobacco producers were able to continually hook millions of new people on their dangerous product. Eventually the science won out, but the cost was terrible.

Today a similar effort is underway with respect to climate change. The science is clear, with a vast majority of climate scientists agreeing that the climate is warming and that continuing to emit carbon into the atmosphere at current levels will bring significant and mostly detrimental change to our environment. Moreover, even though the evidence that climate change is already taking place and is overwhelming and increasingly obvious, there is widespread denial that climate change is even happening or that it would be possible to help combat it. But the things that need to be done to address climate change, such as taxing carbon emissions, can be done gradually, predictably, and in a way that helps the economy grow and puts people to work.

So why is there so much resistance?

The resistance in America is caused by a well-funded campaign to create doubt about obvious scientific facts. The fossil fuel industry, in particular, has been paying its own scientists to go on talk shows, to publish in their own denial journals, and generally to create doubt whenever possible about climate change, suggesting that it would be better to wait for conclusive evidence before doing anything. But to wait for conclusive evidence is to wait for catastrophe.

While Republicans in Washington are trying to reduce or eliminate funding for climate change research, there also seems to be an effort by Republicans to reduce science funding across the board. This will result in fewer scientific advances in the U.S., which will likely cause us to fall behind our competitors. But this is part of a larger trend that denies there are real experts. Science denial has become a pop culture. This is dangerous because modern society is built upon the things that science got right.

I see the war on science in this country as shortsighted and very damaging to our economy. We need to change the tone and direction toward a positive process that acknowledges and supports the role science has played and will continue to play for our country. That means working with legislators and getting more scientists and other concerned citizens involved in the political process to ensure that our Nation can continue to benefit from new scientific discoveries and innovation and which will help create the jobs we need to continue to be a great economic power.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE JOE PITTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in my hand is a book, "Congress: The Chester County Line" written by Wayne C. Woodward. A portion of the foreword reads as follows: "From

the very beginning of our great Nation and the first American Congress, Chester Countians have served their southeast Pennsylvania constituents in the United States House of Representatives. Not all have been nationally known leaders or internationally renowned legislators, but, by and large, Congressmen from Chester County have played a major role in American history." That was written by Richard T. Schulze, member of the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1975 to 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Congressman JOE PITTS, who has served Chester County, Lancaster County, and Berks County with tremendous distinction for the past two decades. Whether it was his legislative focus and advocacy involving religious liberty, life, health care, land conservation, or focusing on those issues at the most local level, JOE PITTS' legacy and achievements as a legislator will prove lasting in the history of Chester County and this Congress.

My predecessor, Jim Gerlach, serving in the neighboring Sixth Congressional District, commented: "I had the good fortune of working with JOE from my first years as a State legislator in the PA house all the way through my last year in Congress. During those 24 years, JOE PITTS was a steady and committed voice for conservative principles and policies that are the bedrock of our economy and society. He cared deeply about his constituents and country, and he always voted for what he believed was best for both. In short, he was a principled leader who worked hard every day to do the right thing, and his leadership will be missed."

JOE PITTS' predecessor in Congress, occupying what is commonly referred to as "the Pennsylvania Dutch seat," Congressman Bob Walker, commented: "JOE PITTS has distinguished himself and the district he represents with his congressional service. He has become an acknowledged leader in healthcare policy, and his human rights work has won worldwide claim. I have been proud to call him my congressman for the past 20 years, and wish JOE and Ginny the very best in the years ahead."

This book, "Congress: The Chester County Line," was written in 1992. There will be a day when a second book about the history of Congress and Chester County will be written. We don't know who will write it, but we do know there will be a chapter on the service of Jim Gerlach and on the service of Bob Walker; and there will also be a very long chapter, rich in content, on the contributions that JOE PITTS has played in American history for the betterment of this country, for the betterment of Chester County, Berks County, and Lancaster County.

Congressman PITTS, I wish you the very best as you retire, and a long and healthy retirement to you and your family. God bless you.

□ 1115

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE BOB DOLD

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress, as I suspect when most new Members come to Congress, you tend to look around for those Members who you can take a little something from to improve yourself and to see what they do and also what they don't do.

Congressman BOB DOLD is finishing his second term. I would like Mr. DOLD to know that I have taken a great deal from him. I find him to be a very honorable man and a friend who has served with purpose, a positive attitude, and is partisan-free. He is a great example of how to serve in this body effectively, with distinction, and with a great attitude.

I wish Congressman DOLD the very best in all his future endeavors.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE RICHARD HANNA

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, RICHARD HANNA, serving New York's 22nd Congressional District, is retiring. I want to commend Congressman HANNA on his thoughtfulness, independence, and courage of convictions. I find him to be a great example of how to serve in this body honorably, and I wish him and his family the very best in his retirement.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE MIKE
FITZPATRICK

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Congressman MIKE FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District is retiring. His brother, Brian, has big shoes to fill to serve in MIKE's place.

When I came to Congress, one thing that you would always hear in political circles is that MIKE FITZPATRICK, while serving in Congress, never stopped being a Bucks County Commissioner. What that really means is, while he came down here to focus on Washington and issues important to this country, he never stopped spending time in Bucks County, serving the district with distinction.

I wish MIKE FITZPATRICK the very best in retirement and thank him for his mentorship during my first year in Congress.

CONGRATULATING STAFF SERGEANT AARON TOBLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler, an Albany native and La Salle Institute of Troy graduate who was recently selected for the Outstanding Airman of the Year award by the United States Air Force.

The Air Force provides this recognition to top enlisted Airmen for their unique individual achievements in leadership, job performance, significant self-improvement, and community involvement.

Sergeant Tobler is a fine example of the best the capital region, the Air

Force, and our Nation have to offer. In addition to his military service, he serves as a manager at the California Department of Social Services, mentors local youth, and is a regular blood donor.

I thank Staff Sergeant Tobler for his military and civilian service to our Nation. He and his colleagues are truly what has made, and continues to make, this country great.

109TH AIRLIFT BUZZ ALDRIN EVACUATION

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, last week, the National Science Foundation announced that the 109th Airlift Wing provided a humanitarian medical evacuation flight from Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station in Antarctica to astronaut Buzz Aldrin, one of the first men to walk on the Moon.

As the Representative for New York's 20th Congressional District, I am, indeed, honored that we are home to Stratton Air National Guard Base, which hosts the 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, New York. Their unit flies the world's only ski-equipped LC-130s, better known as Ski Birds.

The 109th continues a proud tradition of critical contributions that New York's capital region makes to our national security, our economy, and yes, our standing in the world. I am, indeed, proud of their unique service to this country and thank them for their continued support.

PEARL HARBOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, 75 years ago, the Imperial forces of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and other bases in Hawaii. This unforgivable act thrust our country into the war in the Pacific. On this day, 2,403 Americans died, 1,177 of them on the *Arizona*, and 1,178 were wounded.

Today, to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, there will be services here in D.C., throughout the Nation, and particularly at Pearl Harbor. This is where Pearl Harbor, the symbol of World War II and the attack, is found. That, of course, is the USS *Arizona* Memorial.

Designed by Alfred Preis, it was controversial when first unveiled because people could not understand the significance of it. They said it kind of looked like a squashed milk carton. But when you really understood what went behind it, it made sense.

The middle part that looks like it is sagging represented the defeat of December 7; however, the two proud, strong sides represented the victory that our country faced. Think about it. There is a portion of it that is open to the ocean. That is where leis like this were thrown in to honor those who were buried below.

In addition, there is a wall with the names of all those who perished. But there is another wall—and this is very significant—with the names of those

who survived the attack but chose to return to be buried with their colleagues. A Navy diver takes their ashes down and puts them on the USS *Arizona*. There are seven large windows on one side representing December 7. There are 21 windows altogether, representing a 21-gun salute.

When Mr. Preis designed it, he said he wanted the memorial to be everything to anybody as they looked at it, but, most importantly, he wanted it to be serene. You have to ask yourself: Why?

What very few know about Mr. Preis is, like the Japanese Americans, he was detained because he was Austrian. In Hawaii, there were internment camps, not only of Japanese Americans but of Germans of American descent, as well as Italians. Mr. Preis was one of them.

World War II created the Greatest Generation of all time, and we must never forget them. We must honor them. But we must always remember that ultimate sacrifice they made. They made it for all of us so we would appreciate and enjoy civil liberties.

Remember, in February of the following year is when President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 putting Japanese Americans, whose only crime was that they were Japanese Americans, into internment camps. This group fought the fight to prove their loyalty to this country.

Let us not forget them, the Filipino World War II veterans who also served, and everyone who served in World War II. Let us not forget why they served and why they did that ultimate sacrifice. It was so that we would be the greatest country on this Earth and we would provide people with civil liberties.

So let us not, as we move forward, forget that. Let us not forget what it means to be a country that welcomes all and has protected the civil liberties. As we look and hear about things like the Muslim registry or building walls, would those brave men of the Greatest Generation really think they fought for that? Is that what they want this country to become? I contend that they do not.

On this day, Mr. Speaker, as we honor those who gave that ultimate sacrifice, let us not forget why we are the greatest country on the face of this Earth and why they are the Greatest Generation.

DROUGHT: HUMAN IMPACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the real human impact that the drought has had on families across California's San Joaquin Valley. This drought has lasted for 6 years.

Tomorrow, the House will have an opportunity to vote on legislation that will help address the impacts of the drought and begin to repair a broken

water system that we have in California today. I hope more than anything that we can get the legislation across the finish line, but it seems that some of my colleagues in the House and the Senate remain unconvinced that a solution is necessary. I tell you that a solution is necessary and we are working on borrowed time.

I would like to take the opportunity to dispel that misconception. The picture next to me here is Mr. and Mrs. Cabrera from Madera, California. I represent these constituents. As you will notice, they look happy. The reason they look happy is because, when I had the pleasure of meeting with them that day, they found out that they had received a Federal resource grant to dig a new well in their backyard. Two years prior to that day, their well had gone completely dry.

For my colleagues who do not represent the rural constituencies across this country or in California, that means for 2 years the Cabrera family could not turn their faucet on to get water to bathe or cook. Instead, they went outside to haul buckets of water into their house. A 2,500-gallon tank in their backyard was where they got the water from. Some families are even less fortunate and had to have water trucked into their neighborhoods.

Also, pictured next to them is Juana Garcia. Juana lives in East Porterville. She was featured in a Fresno Bee story last year. Her family and 700 households in East Porterville have no water. This photo illustrates the delivery of nonpotable water to Ms. Garcia and her family. They walk to the local church several times a week so they can take a shower.

The Cabrera and Garcia families represent the faces of thousands of families throughout the Valley who don't have water and don't have a long-term plan to get water. They have been impacted.

Farmers, farm workers, and farm communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley have been impacted as well. Without water, hundreds and thousands of acres of productive ag land have gone fallow. That means they are not planted. Without planting, that means no jobs and no water. Unemployment, in many of these Valley farming communities, is in the double digits and at an all-time high.

While a California drought relief bill will not resolve every single challenge we face in the Valley and in California's broken water system, it will provide some relief to help these suffering families.

To my colleagues in California and elsewhere who think that the language in the WRDA bill is a poison pill, I say it is not. This is important to help solve the problems of the people in this Valley to ensure that more Valley families do not become the victims of polluted water and dry wells. This is not a poison pill. You should not look at it that way. It is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate to support

this legislation and act swiftly, not only on the behalf of the people of the San Joaquin Valley but Flint, Michigan, and the others who will benefit in the very important WRDA bill that will be before us tomorrow.

Time is of the essence. The drought-stricken community in California, especially in the San Joaquin Valley, and others who are impacted by very important and needed efforts that Senator FEINSTEIN and others have put together as part of the WRDA bill, a bipartisan bill that Congressman MCCARTHY has worked on, should be passed tomorrow. Do the right thing before Christmas.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a strong recommendation that President-elect Trump address immediately and put to rest the overwhelming conflicts of interest that abound with his personal business affairs that threaten to undermine the public interest and destabilize his future administration.

When America's Founding Fathers wrote the Emoluments Clause in our Constitution, their firm intention was to insulate our new government from unethical foreign inducement to our elected officials and corruption attendant to the intertwining of Europe's politics with our own.

□ 1130

So reads our Constitution, Article I. Article I, right at the beginning, Section 9, clause 8: "No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States"—that means we don't coronate kings here—"And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever from any King, Prince, or foreign State."

No elected official in this country is above the Constitution, the law of the land. This is the strict, time-tested standard, ethical standard to which the President and Congress and all senior government appointees are held.

Unfortunately, American history has no shortage of examples of Presidents and senior officials who attempted to skirt this ethical standard outside of appropriate channels, and they paid the price: Ulysses S. Grant's Whiskey Ring, or Warren G. Harding's Teapot Dome, or Richard Nixon's Jewel Scandal or Watergate, to name a few. Each represents an instance of improper gifting, self-dealing, and an array of clandestine and illegal activities, of which President-elect Trump would be wise to reflect upon their consequences.

There have been many suggestions offered to the President-elect on what

he should do to clear up such potential conflicts about his foreign investments, contacts, and his vast private wealth that could compromise his position as President; yet President-elect Trump's advisers keep us waiting and dodging the main question.

He, himself, has said that action is not legally required. He is wrong. He also incorrectly asserts there can be no conflict of interest for a President. History shows that is false.

Without separation of his private interests from his public interests, how will the American people know he is acting fairly and impartially in his appointments to regulatory agencies, for example? or his funding recommendations of budgets and departments that could impact his investments? Or how about the contracts that are let by the Federal Government itself?

How will he work with banks, and which ones, nation-state-owned or foreign, that have loaned him and his associates money?

Who will he be appointing to key regulatory positions that could impact his vast financial interests across many continents?

A former Reform Party Vice Presidential candidate opined on the Huffington Post site that Mr. Trump has three options to address his conflicts of interest:

Number one, to place his company and assets into a true blind trust, supervised by a totally independent entity;

Number two, to persuade the GOP-controlled Congress to enact a law that exempts the President from the Emolument Provision, which I would vote against; or

Number three, to resign, or risk impeachment.

As the Office of Government Ethics advised, only a true divestiture of his financial stake in his sprawling and global business dealings will resolve ethical concerns about conflicts of interest as he assumes the role of President of the United States.

Now, this map gives you a sense of some of his interests that he has acknowledged in some of his filings, of 144 companies in 25 different countries. We don't know what these relationships are. He has a sprawling global business empire, and the list includes countries with strained diplomatic ties to the United States.

As the President, his responsibilities will force him to make decisions on foreign policy and tax policy, for example, that will impact these significant business interests. Only a truly complete removal of his ownership can assure the American people that his Presidential actions and political decisions are not motivated by personal financial interests. Even then, suspicion will arise about every move he makes and be subject to prosecution.

In the 3 weeks since his election, President-elect Trump has held meetings and calls with foreign dignitaries, Prime Ministers, and Presidents in his

official capacity as President-elect. That is normal. What is not normal or appropriate, though, is for the public to hear afterwards that his adult children, who are slated to take over the family business, were also present.

The American public is well aware that the Trump team has a steep learning curve in understanding his role, the operation and legal allowances of our Federal Government, and he has a long way to go in separating his personal financial interests from his public financial interests. I can't say in strong enough terms we do need to have his tax filings on record, and we do need to have clarification for the American people that our Constitution must prevail.

No public official—no public official—is exempt from the law of the land, and the highest law is the Constitution of the United States. He must separate himself from his business dealings.

ST. XAVIER FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 2, my alma mater, St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, beat the odds in a true underdog story and won the Ohio high school Division I football State championship. They join the St. Xavier water polo team as State champs this year as well.

Through a tough regular season schedule, the St. X Bombers went into the final regular season game with a record of 4 and 5, needing one more win to make it to the playoffs, and they were losing at halftime. They won and went on to win five more times, ultimately beating a tough Cleveland Saint Ignatius team, in front of 13,000 people at Ohio Stadium, to win the State championship.

In one of the most thrilling high school football games, St. X won 27-20 in double overtime. In fact, three of the five playoff victories were won in overtime.

In a historic year, St. X became the first team in Ohio high school athletic history to lose five regular season games and then go on to win the State championship. The 2016 football season can teach us all something about perseverance and never giving up.

I would like to congratulate the St. Xavier players, Coach Steve Specht, and his staff, for their hard work and dedication. This win adds to a long history of sportsmanship and commitment on the field at St. Xavier High School.

Go Bombers.

CONGRATULATING DR. BEN CARSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that President-elect Donald Trump has appointed Dr. Ben Carson to serve as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, where he will promote opportunity for success for everyone.

President-elect Trump announced: "Ben Carson has a brilliant mind and is passionate about strengthening communities and families within those communities . . . Ben shares my optimism about the future of our country and is part of ensuring that this is a Presidency representing all Americans."

Dr. Carson knows that there is power in education and hard work. He earned a full scholarship to Yale University, received his doctorate from the University of Michigan, and then, at just age 33, became the director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins.

With his dear wife, Candy, he started the Carson Scholars Fund, a valuable national scholarship program to empower students from all backgrounds to strive for academic excellence and community service.

Our Nation is fortunate that Dr. Ben Carson has been nominated to this important position, and I am confident in his future success for American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

9/11 was the Pearl Harbor of our era, being a surprise attack on our civilization. President-elect Donald Trump, with Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, will lead us to victory to protect American families.

RECESS

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this day 75 years ago, our Nation was attacked, and war was visited upon our people. In so many places in our world, war rages still. May all leaders be empowered to work toward lasting peace, with the help of Your grace.

We ask also this day for wisdom, patience, and understanding among the

Members of this people's House. Give them the generosity of heart, and the courage of true leadership, to work as true statesmen and women, toward a common solution to the many issues facing our Nation.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING DR. EDUARDO J. PADRON ON RECEIVING THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Dr. Eduardo Padron, president of my alma mater, Miami Dade College, for receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

As a fellow refugee who escaped the Castro regime, I was honored to help lead the effort to nominate Dr. Padron for this meritorious recognition. He has always made it his life's work to advocate on behalf of underserved populations.

Through his expert guidance and leadership, Dr. Padron has propelled Miami Dade College into national prominence by improving student access, retention, and graduation, as well as helping them with their professional achievements.

Today, MDC enrolls and graduates more minority students than any other institution of higher education in the country.

Congratulations to Dr. Padron on receiving our Nation's highest civilian honor. South Florida and the MDC community could not be more proud of you.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, my heart is in Hawaii today. At almost this exact time, on this very day 75 years ago, the first bombs were dropped in the attack on Pearl Harbor. More than 2,400 people perished on that fateful day that will forever live in infamy.

We remember our brothers and sisters who paid the ultimate price and those who answered the call to serve in the months and years that followed, including our two former Senators Inouye and Akaka, and the more than 320,000 who gave their lives in that war.

We remember the Japanese Americans whose lives were forever changed when, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, were thrown into internment camps; and the brave *nisei* who, in spite of these atrocities, volunteered to serve, forming the *nisei*-only "Go for Broke" 442nd Infantry Regiment, serving courageously and sacrificing greatly.

May we never forget what happened at Pearl Harbor, the lessons learned, and the sacrifices of all who served.

HONORING NED RANDOLPH

(Mr. ABRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a faithful public servant of Louisiana, Mr. Edward Gordon Randolph, Jr., better known as Ned, who passed away October 4, 2016, at the age of 74.

Ned was a political force in Louisiana. He served in the Louisiana House of Representatives, the Louisiana Senate, and served as mayor of his hometown, the great city of Alexandria, Louisiana.

Ned served in that capacity for over 20 years, and he had many, many accomplishments in that job. Among those was the opening of the Alexandria Riverfront Center, and advocating for the transition from England Air Force Base to England Airpark, which is still in existence. He revitalized that entire city and left behind a legacy of great, great success.

So, again, just a tribute to Ned Randolph. He will be missed.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 75th anniversary of the tragic attacks on Pearl Harbor. It is a day we reflect to remember over 2,400 Americans whose lives we lost that morning.

Today I especially remember Army Corporal Earl Wickett, a south Buffalo

native, who was stationed at Pearl Harbor on the day of the attacks. Mr. Wickett went on to fight on behalf of our Nation for over 4 years.

Following his tour, he returned home to western New York, raised a family, and continued to serve his community as a Buffalo firefighter.

Unfortunately, Mr. Wickett is no longer with us, passing away a few years ago, but his stories and acts of bravery live on.

Today I join all Americans in remembering those who paid the ultimate price at Pearl Harbor and those who sought and seek to protect our freedom here and throughout the world. This Nation is always grateful for those like Mr. Wickett, for their bravery, dedication, and selfless service.

CONGRATULATING FAIRFIELD AREA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

(Mr. PERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly honor my constituents, the Fairfield Area High School girls' soccer team, for earning the PIAA 1A championship. These young women have brought home the first State team sports title in Fairfield's history.

The Green Knights defeated District 7 champion, Shady Side, in a 9-4 victory, at Hersheypark Stadium, on November 18, 2016. The Green Knights finished the season with a 25-1 record and scored 27 goals in four State playoff games, including two nine-goal performances.

For a team from a small community, the Green Knights had an army of loyal supporters.

I extend my congratulations to the team, to the head coach, Phomma Phanhthy, and the school officials, family, and friends who supported these young women on this incredible journey. We are all so very proud of you.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUBLIC SERVANTS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to acknowledge the fallen on this day, December 7, at Pearl Harbor, the day of infamy, and offer to them our greatest admiration and gratitude. Our prayers continue to be with their ongoing families.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to speak about the responsibilities of public servants.

To my knowledge, Air Force One does not belong to any particular Presidency, regardless of party. Therefore, any attempt to ensure the technological sophistication and the quality of that aircraft should be left to the decisionmakers who have the responsi-

bility of protecting the President of the United States or, in essence, those who have the responsibility of governing the United States military, which includes the Congress and, certainly, our Pentagon.

I am concerned when the incoming person that will take the oath of office begins to abuse the process and suggests that this is too costly and that this company—Boeing, in particular—should be undermined.

Our job is to create and save jobs, not to destroy jobs. Our job also, Mr. Speaker, is to protect the President of the United States; and that kind of interference, uninformed, should be stopped immediately.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, to remember, in particular, the recognition of one of the survivors we still have with us, David Edward Callahan, a great northern California veteran who put his life on the line to serve in the United States Navy at a time when the world was on fire.

Less than 4 months after he reported to the U.S. naval training station in San Diego at the age of 16—he fibbed a little on his application—Mr. Callahan soon would be standing to colors aboard the USS *New Orleans* when the drone of the first Japanese aircraft was heard that morning at Pearl Harbor.

It would only be the start of his service to us in the U.S. For 6 years, he would fight the Japanese in almost every major battle of the Pacific war as a combat swimmer, which later became known as the Navy SEALs, from Guadalcanal to Iwo Jima, where he was awarded a Purple Heart.

On behalf of the First District of California, we want to show our gratitude to Mr. Callahan because his service didn't end there. Later on in the Pacific nuclear proving grounds, he used his diving skills there to see how that would work in the nuclear testing that was going on at that time.

He has never stopped serving. He has never been less than an inspiration for all of us. He will be taking part in Pearl Harbor ceremonies today. We are glad to have him, and we are proud to have him as an American.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was a defining moment in our Nation's history, and, as has been said, a day that will live in infamy.

The events of Pearl Harbor demonstrated the resolve of the American people and our Armed Forces. It is a day when we honor those who gave their lives in the defense of this country, but also honor those who have saved lives of others during this tragedy.

Petty Officer Doris "Dorie" Miller, from my hometown of Waco, was one such individual who went above and beyond the call of duty in defense of this country and his fellow Americans. Dorie Miller is widely recognized as a hero after the attack on Pearl Harbor for his remarkable courage when his ship, the USS *West Virginia*, came under attack by the Japanese.

In the face of imminent danger, he assisted his ship's commander, who was mortally wounded, to safety. He then reportedly manned a .50-caliber anti-aircraft machine gun to shoot down at least 3 of the 29 Japanese planes that went down that day.

Mr. Speaker, ever since I have been a Member of Congress, I have worked time and time again to get Dorie Miller awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Yet, today he is left with still the Navy Cross. It is time we honor the unheard sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and award Dorie Miller the Congressional Medal of Honor.

WHY THE CONSTITUTION IS IMPORTANT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the United States of America is a nation of laws, where the government derives its limited powers from "We the People," the consenting governed.

Since 1789, the Constitution has served as our country's legal foundation. Its wisdom is timeless. And just as George Washington called the Constitution the guide he would never abandon, we won't abandon it either or try to tinker unnecessarily with its brilliance.

Thanks to the foresight of the Constitution's Framers, their understanding of government overreach, and their grasp of human nature, we have an abiding document that checks the power of the Federal Government and protects the rights of individual citizens.

It is genius in its brevity, in its endurance, and in its aforethought to limit and separate the governing powers established therein.

As a Member of Congress, it is an honor and sacred duty to protect and uphold the Constitution.

□ 1215

FBI AND WALL STREET

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I wrote to FBI Director James Comey in September and requested the materials related to the FBI's investigations into the 2008 financial crisis. ELIZABETH WARREN joined me in this request, which we made as a result of the precedent the FBI established in a high-profile case involving a Secretary of State's emails. In citing "intense public interest" and "the interest of transparency," the FBI saw fit to provide extensive testimony to Congress and hundreds of pages of documents that gave context to its decision not to prosecute.

It has been 8 years since casino-style bets and a culture of fraud on Wall Street crashed our economy and caused millions of Americans to lose their jobs and their homes; yet no top executives were charged with crimes, and many Americans have a gnawing sense that justice has not been served. As of today, I have not received one word.

The DOJ has obtained financial settlements from major institutions, like Citigroup and Bank of America.

The American public has a clear interest and stake in understanding why the FBI did not pursue charges against the recommendations of its own commission.

RECOGNIZING THE KEYSTONE LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Pennsylvania State Little League champions, the Keystone Little League team, from Clinton County, Pennsylvania. Today, I had the privilege of hosting them for a Capitol tour, and they currently join me from the House Gallery.

The team had a remarkable 2016 season, claiming their district and sectional titles before winning the statewide championship for Pennsylvania.

As the Pennsylvania champions, they made an impressive run in the regional playoffs and came just one game short of representing the mid-Atlantic region in the Little League World Series. Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District has a rich history of great Little League players and teams, and this year's Keystone team continues that legacy. They join greats such as Specialist Ross A. McGinnis, a Medal of Honor winner and Little League Hall of Excellence inductee, and the 2011 Mid-Atlantic Little League World Series team, also the former Keystone team, which also hailed from Clinton County.

In keeping with this tradition, Keystone made their region proud through their love and dedication to America's favorite pastime—baseball. Congratulations to the players and coaches on such a great run.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION: NYPD REIMBURSEMENT FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep disappointment in the continuing resolution that was released last night.

The \$7 million appropriated to reimburse New York City for costs incurred to provide security for President-elect Trump and his family was a mere fraction of the \$35 million requested by the city and the police department.

The security efforts involved are unprecedented, and it is totally unfair to ask New York City taxpayers alone to pay for these costs. This is the second busiest intersection, not in New York City, not in New York State, but in the entire country. Over 10,000 residents per hour cross at 57th and 5th. It is a security challenge personified.

Because of this budget's failure, New Yorkers are now being forced to provide a no-interest loan to the Federal Government and have no guarantee of being paid back.

This is a terrible deal. Securing the President-elect is a national security priority, and it must be paid for by the Federal Government.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP'S PHONE CALL TO PRESIDENT TSAI

(Mr. BARTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise for two reasons today.

First, I honor the life of my father, Larry L. Barton. He died on this date, December 7, 1996. He was a World War II veteran and a B-24 Liberator navigator. He was based in Italy and flew 40 combat missions over Central Europe.

I also rise to commend President-elect Trump for his phone call to the President of Taiwan, President Tsai. Taiwan is a friend of the United States. We recognized Taiwan from the late 1940s to 1972. We then recognized Mainland China but maintained diplomatic relationships with Taiwan until 1978. President-elect Trump was right to make a phone call to President Tsai. They are a friend of the United States. In my opinion, there is no reason we can't have diplomatic relations with both nations. I am told that President Tsai is going to come through Texas in the fall on her way to Guatemala. I will welcome her if that trip occurs and will try to give her the hospitality that she gave me when I visited her great nation last month.

A phone call is a phone call, Mr. Speaker. I commend the President-elect for calling President Tsai. I hope this means a warming of a relationship with Taiwan.

JOSIE AND ROLLIE HEATH

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we know it is truly a privilege to serve because of the people we serve. Today, I want to acknowledge two very special constituents of mine who are retiring this year. Josie and Rollie Heath are beloved members of the community in Boulder, Colorado.

The pair moved to Boulder, Colorado, in the 1970s, where their family and love grew alongside their history of public service. In a recent newspaper article, Josie said that people say to her: Oh, now that you are retiring, you can do what you want to do.

And she thinks: Well, I have been doing what I want to do.

This month, Josie retired after 20 years as the head of The Community Foundation Boulder County. Prior to that, she was a county commissioner, and she served in the Carter and Clinton administrations. When I was 15 years old, I volunteered on her United States Senate race in 1990.

Early next month, Rollie Heath, a 23-year veteran of the Army, is retiring as a State Senator. Prior to the legislature, he had a career in international business and founded the Rocky Mountain World Trade Center.

For Rollie and Josie, their jobs weren't simply about the work they did. They were about building community. Both served on so many boards and advocated for so many just causes. Above all, they have remained true to themselves as purveyors of progress in all that they do. I am honored not only to be their Congressman but to be their friend.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate them on their life's work, and I look forward to joining them in future adventures.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM M. PETERSON

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Captain William M. Peterson of Richland, Washington, who was recently inducted into the Wall of Gallantry in the Hall of Heroes at the United States Coast Guard Academy.

While serving as an aircraft commander with the Coast Guard in July of 1982, then-Lieutenant Peterson engaged in a perilous rescue of nine survivors from an HC-130 that had crashed in bad weather on Attu Island, off the coast of Alaska. Flying in extremely hazardous conditions, with winds gusting up to 40 knots, and with visibility as low as 50 feet, Lieutenant Peterson inched his helicopter along the side of a mountain and transported nine survivors back to safety over multiple trips from the crash site.

Captain Peterson demonstrated the highest forms of courage, judgment, and unwavering devotion to duty that day. I congratulate him on this much-deserved honor. I also offer my humble appreciation to Captain Peterson for serving on my Academy Nomination Board.

Your heroic service is an inspiration to these future military leaders.

HONORING LINDA CHRISTLE

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Linda Christle, who is retiring as executive director of Economic Development Sedalia-Pettis County.

She has faithfully served the community of Sedalia for the past 12 years. Throughout her tenure as executive director, Linda has achieved many accomplishments, including the creation of three enhanced enterprise zones, resulting in over 50 companies benefiting and growing their businesses in her community. Additionally, this past year, the community was able to complete its third strategic plan in 15 years. As a result, multiple task forces were established to enhance the community, which also led to the eventual creation of the entrepreneurial program called 1 Million Cups.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to congratulate and to thank Linda Christle for her years of distinguished service in Sedalia and Pettis County. I am blessed to represent her in Congress, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

MEDIACRATS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we need a new word for the dictionary, a new term for the merger of the liberal media and the Democratic Party.

Obviously, the liberal media have no intention of treating President-elect Trump objectively or fairly. They want to continue to link arms with the Democrats. This is no surprise, given that 96 percent of national reporters' contributions went to Hillary Clinton.

As chairman of the Media Fairness Caucus, here is my proposal: let's combine the two words—"media" and "Democrat"—and go with "mediacrat." It is short; it gives the media first mention; and it sounds like a new species. Now, I realize the liberal media is not likely to use this word "mediacrat" very often, but there are two reasons for them to do so—first, to show they have a sense of humor, and, second, to show they have a sense of humility.

I think most Americans would be happy if the liberal media didn't display their bias every time they covered

the President-elect. Maybe the mediacrats should try balanced reporting. It surely would help their credibility.

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW MUST BE ENFORCED

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, a disturbing trend has developed of leading universities in their promoting lawlessness by refusing to comply with Federal immigration law; so, today, I am introducing the Federal Immigration Law Compliance Act of 2016, with cosponsors from California to New York to Florida.

This act requires any entity that receives Federal funds, including institutions of higher learning, to comply with all lawful requests made by Federal immigration enforcement authorities. Should the entity refuse to comply with Federal immigration enforcement requests, all Federal funding can be withheld. For instance, the University of Pennsylvania, which charges \$51,000 tuition, despite its having an endowment of \$10.7 billion, would stand to lose \$700 million in Federal grants if they were to choose to continue their policy of not complying with Federal immigration law.

Congress has the responsibility to protect the rule of law in our country and to provide for the safety of our citizens. The American people have spoken loudly in this past election that they want Federal immigration law enforced. Shame on those universities that take Federal money and then promote lawlessness.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5143, TRANSPARENT INSURANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 9, 2016, THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2017; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 944 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 944

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5143) to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-68 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All

points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services; (2) the further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress after December 8, 2016—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 4. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII.

SEC. 6. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of December 8, 2016, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

□ 1230

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 944 provides for consideration of H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016. The resolution provides for a structured rule. This legislation is an important effort to protect the U.S. model of insurance supervision, provide for improved oversight,

and keep the U.S. insurance industry strong and competitive.

For over 150 years, individual States have successfully regulated insurance and coordinated their activities. This model has worked and ensured that the focus remains on the consumer.

Well, when Congress passed the Dodd-Frank Act back in 2010, the Federal Government assumed a new role in the regulation of the insurance industry. This change included the creation of the Federal Insurance Office, otherwise known as FIO, and charged FIO with representing the interests of U.S. insurers—not consumers, insurers—during the negotiation of any international agreements.

The change also allowed for both the FIO Director and the Federal Reserve to participate in an international organization known as the International Association of Insurance Supervisors. Previously, insurance regulators from the individual States participated in the international discussions. Remember, the State insurance regulators are there to protect consumers.

The International Association of Insurance Supervisors is responsible for developing regulatory guidelines and best practices for insurance supervisors around the world to adopt. Europe and the United States have very different regulatory models for insurance.

Recently, the European Union has developed a regulatory protocol known as Solvency II. Solvency II is significantly different from the successful State-based insurance regulatory system that has been successful in the U.S. for the last 150 years. The fear is that the International Association of Insurance Supervisors will adopt Solvency II as the gold standard, which would put U.S. insurers and consumers at a severe disadvantage.

More alarming, the Treasury Department and the U.S. Trade Representative are already engaged in negotiations with the European Union regarding a “covered agreement” over insurance regulations. If based on the Solvency II model, this could severely hurt the U.S. insurance industry and consumers.

That is where our legislation comes in. The Transparent Insurance Standards Act simply enhances Congress’ oversight of international deliberations relating to insurance standards. The bill sets reasonable requirements that must be met before the United States can agree to accept, establish, or enter into the adoption of any international insurance standard. The same requirements would be followed throughout any negotiations over a covered agreement with the European Union.

To be clear, this bill would not stop the international process. It simply will ensure that the United States is leading on the issues instead of being led by foreign governments.

This bill also requires that the Federal Insurance Office and the Federal Reserve report and testify before Con-

gress at least twice a year about ongoing negotiations.

I appreciate Mr. LUTKEMEYER and Chairman HENSARLING for their leadership on this very important issue, and I hope we can come together to pass this very important legislation.

I just don’t understand why anyone would be opposed to greater congressional oversight over such an important issue. Adoption of these standards or entering into an agreement with the European Union could fundamentally alter the U.S. insurance industry and, yes, hurt consumers. It only makes sense for the democratically elected Congress to play a role in the process.

This legislation is simply about improving oversight and protecting the State-based model of insurance regulation that has held up so well in our country over the last 150 years and has enjoyed wide, bipartisan support. Most importantly, this bill is about ensuring the concerns of the American people come first, not the worries of some foreign government or group.

I urge my colleagues to protect insurance consumers across America by supporting House Resolution 944 and the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding to me the customary 30 minutes for debate.

I rise to debate the rule for consideration of H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016. At best, this bill is unnecessary. At worst, it will harm our ability to reach vital international agreements to protect our financial system.

Mr. Speaker, the 2008 financial crisis and the subsequent Great Recession was the worst financial disaster in our Nation’s history since the Great Depression. Nearly 9 million Americans lost their jobs, doubling the unemployment rate. More than 11 million Americans lost their homes to foreclosures. Home values dropped more than 30 percent. Our Nation lost more than \$13 trillion in economic output. To put that in perspective, that is the equivalent of losing a year’s gross domestic product.

From this disaster, we learned many lessons and passed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to ensure that we are better able to prevent such a financial calamity from occurring again.

One lesson we learned was the significant risk posed to our financial system by potentially unstable, large, globally active insurance companies, as demonstrated by the near collapse of AIG. As a result, commonsense reforms to the insurance industry were put in place, including the creation of the Federal Insurance Office to coordinate Federal efforts, develop policy, and represent the United States in the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

This office, along with new authorities for the Federal Reserve and the

Department of the Treasury, allow our regulators to work to ensure that our unique insurance regulatory regime provides stability in our financial system, both nationally and globally. Now, however, the majority seems to have forgotten the lessons of the 2008 financial crisis.

Mr. Speaker, at best, this legislation is unnecessary. Under the guise of transparency, H.R. 5143 would require additional public notice and comment regarding potential agreements on international insurance standards. But such international agreements would only take effect domestically after regulations were promulgated in accordance with U.S. law, which already includes a notice and comment period. The transparency this bill is seeking is already enshrined in our rulemaking process.

Then, at worst, this bill will harm U.S. negotiators by tying their hands and making setting workable insurance standards nearly impossible to achieve. Mr. Speaker, by requiring our negotiators to seek consensus positions with all 50 State insurance commissioners, this bill weakens the United States’ ability to work with other countries to improve the regulation of large global insurance companies. By placing unnecessary, counterproductive, and overly cumbersome reporting and negotiating requirements on the Federal Reserve and Treasury, we will not be able to achieve the global insurance stability we need to prevent future financial disasters.

As we approach the end of the 114th Congress, I am dismayed to see that consideration of this bill is how the majority has decided we should spend what few precious legislative days remain. I guess my dismay carries over from last night’s so-called impeachment consideration of the IRS Commissioner, who will be gone from office by the time they could get through this process. I was pleased to see the chairman of the Judiciary Committee refer it to his committee, where I am sure it will die.

It just seems that we get to this important juncture and we find ourselves caught up in bumper sticker politics, as we have for most of the session of the 114th Congress. It appears that, in the final hours of this Congress, the majority is attempting to throw up roadblocks to prevent commonsense financial regulations aimed at preventing large insurance companies from once again threatening the stability of our economy.

The American people—all of them, Republican and Democrat—deserve better. Assuredly, we can anticipate that if this measure were to become law—and I predict it won’t—but if it were to become law, then I can see us, at some point, faced with another serious financial crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have listened to my colleague from Florida's remarks, and I certainly understand the concern that we all have with the aftermath of the Great Recession of 2008. But there are many of us who believe that the Dodd-Frank law, which contains the provision that we are trying to affect here, really did things that went way outside of what we should have been doing to try to prevent another recession from happening again.

How does ceding control over the U.S. insurance market to foreign governments and groups help our economy or help prevent a future recession? How does a bill like the underlying bill, that protects consumers and provides congressional oversight, hurt our economy? How does that not help our economy, help the consumers?

□ 1245

This bill is necessary because the United States faces losing control over our insurance that is so very important to everybody in the United States of America.

My colleague talked about State insurance departments. One thing we have seen these last several years is a steady effort to take power away from State governments, which is, frankly, contrary to the intent of our Constitution.

Our State governments do very important things, like they are the primary providers for public education. But they are also the primary regulators for insurance, and they have done a good job of that. We have 150 years of experience with that. We have bipartisan support for that. Why would we be taking power away from them? Why isn't continuing to allow them to have that power and utilize it as each State sees fit, why isn't that a good thing?

Finally, my colleague talked about how, at the end of this Congress, we are doing bumper sticker things. Well, I believe that passing, with a huge bipartisan vote, the National Defense Authorization Act last week was a good thing. If that is a bumper sticker, I want that bumper sticker.

We passed, last week, the 21st Century Cures Act that I really believe is going to save lives. If that is a bumper sticker, I want that bumper sticker.

And I predict on the floor tomorrow we are going to take a WRDA bill for everybody in the United States that is going to enhance the well-being of people all over this country. That is another bumper sticker I will be happy to have on my car.

So I appreciate my colleague's remarks. He knows the tremendous respect that I have for him, but I respectfully disagree with the premise for his arguments.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleague from Alabama and I do have mutual respect for each other,

and I agree with him the three measures that he cited, and I can cite others during the course of the 114th that were substantive legislation that rightly we should have bipartisan support for and did, and I agree with him that the WRDA bill will be one that we could equally wear proudly on our bumper stickers.

The point that I was making was that we spent a good portion of the 114th Congress, number one, doing nothing. We didn't even make any bumper stickers because we weren't here that often to undertake to do anything. At the very same time, many of the things that we did fell in the category, at least as I perceive it, of being bumper sticker measures: 60-plus times repealing the Affordable Care Act, knowing full well that the sitting President was not going to sign anything, so all we did it for was for certain people to have talking points. Now, we are entitled; that is a part of what politics is. But make no mistake about it: we did a lot of bumper sticker legislation in the last session because a lot of it went nowhere, and a lot of it was done during a period that we should have been about the business of substantive legislation.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up a bill that would close a tax loophole that rewards companies for moving jobs overseas and would, instead, provide a tax credit for companies that move jobs back to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), the bill's sponsor and my good friend, to discuss our proposal.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule.

In the waning days of the 114th Congress, here we are debating a bill once again to roll back Wall Street reforms. This is what it comes down to.

How tone deaf can we be? Here is a news flash: the whole country is focused on defending blue-collar jobs, bolstering our industrial manufacturing base. Folks are zoned in on that, focused on that issue. So we need to stop outsourcing now.

This Congress should start by defeating the previous question and bringing up the Bring Jobs Home Act. Around 5 million United States manufacturing jobs have been lost since 1994, good-paying jobs. Their loss has led to a somewhat demise of the middle class in America. Just ask folks in places like Ohio and Pennsylvania, who have seen steel mills and rubber factories shipped

overseas. My hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, was formerly the hub of the textile manufacturing industry, which no longer exists.

So why are we subsidizing it? Why are we subsidizing American companies to move to other shores? That is what we are doing. Right now, when companies move overseas, they can take a tax deduction for the cost of the move. That is a huge tax break. How do we defend it and why do we defend it?

So the bill that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) referred to eliminates this tax deduction and gives a tax credit of up to 20 percent of the cost of moving businesses, bringing businesses back to the United States of America through U.S. companies. That seems to me to make more sense. Why are we paying folks to leave when we could be paying them to get back into this country? I don't know how you disagree with that.

The companies would have to add jobs to claim the tax credit. That is the caveat. I think it works. I ask you to consider it. Let's stop subsidizing companies that ship jobs overseas and start bringing jobs back to our shores. Let's stop talking about it. Let's do something about it. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't get much simpler than that.

This is not a new idea at all. President Obama and the Democrats in Congress have raised this bill for years, and the Republican Congress has blocked the bill at every turn. Senator STABENOW of Michigan leads this bill in the Senate, where it cleared a procedural vote 93-7 in 2014.

I challenge you today to take up and pass the bill, to stand up for American manufacturing and the workers here at home who need help. Don't be all talk. Step up to the plate. Take a stand where it counts.

I urge a "no" vote on the previous question so we can bring up the Bring Jobs Home Act and start bringing jobs back to the United States of America, the greatest country in the world.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill, the underlying bill, has nothing to do with Wall Street and everything to do with consumers, so I respectfully disagree with my colleague from New Jersey. I know that it would be good for them to try to characterize this bill as something having to do with Wall Street, but it really has to do with you and me and the average people in this country.

I listened to his remarks about his proposal regarding doing things to try to keep American companies from going abroad and doing everything we can to attract other companies abroad, whether they are U.S. based or not, to come back here. That sounds a whole lot like what President-elect Trump is saying, and I think it is pretty clear that that is going to be a big priority for him when we come back in January.

Now, we had been talking about tax reform here in this House, and there is

a proposal moving forward that is comprehensive that will not only provide the appropriate incentives for American companies to stay here, but also provide incentives for companies that are in other countries to come here and provide jobs for the American people, which is really what this is all about.

Our tax reform proposal would actually lower tax rates for everybody in America, and we should be about that as well. Instead, our friends on the other side of the aisle, every time we talk about tax reform, they want to stick some tax increases in there.

The American people don't want a tax increase. They are tired of tax increases. They are tired of the overextension of the Federal Government, and they are tired of ceding control over things in America to international governments and groups. What the underlying bill does is it keeps control over our domestic insurance market here in America and doesn't give that control, doesn't give any of that authority to people in other countries.

I listened with interest to the remarks that were just made. I am looking forward to President-elect Trump being President Trump so that we can have a comprehensive approach to keeping American businesses here and attracting more businesses here for more jobs. I believe that is exactly what we are going to see during this very exciting year to come.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

As my friend from Alabama knows, we are currently debating the rule. This is a tool used to set the House's agenda and to prioritize consideration of legislation. For that very reason, this is, in fact, the appropriate time for us to explain to the American people what legislation we would like to prioritize and what agenda we would like to pursue in this House. That is why we have a previous question.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman will also be pleased to learn that our amendment does not prevent the House from considering the majority's bill. Our amendment simply allows the House to consider our bill as well. As Mr. PASCRELL pointed out, it is not as if this isn't something that hasn't been brought up for the last 2 years; and therefore, I join the gentleman in his excitement about the possibilities going forward of us being able to address this legislation, but now is the time that we can do it if we were to vote the previous question as requested.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me reiterate that the bill before us is unnecessary; it is a waste of valuable time; and if it were ever to be enacted into law, which I predict it won't, it would be harmful to our country's fiscal well-being. Let me go back and put a caveat there. It won't become the law in the 114th session. It may very well pass the 115th session.

We need to protect and wisely continue to implement commonsense regulations and oversight passed in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis to ensure it doesn't happen again. I urge my colleagues to oppose the rule and the underlying measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I want to go back to some remarks I made at the very beginning. No one wants to see a repeat of the Great Recession. It harmed everybody in this country. But in response to it, by passing the Dodd-Frank law, which this provision is going to try to affect, we essentially took a liberal grab bag of ideas that have been hanging around for years and just threw it into a bill and then tried to pretend that somehow that was going to have something to do with preventing a future recession.

□ 1300

Virtually everything that is in the Dodd-Frank law has nothing to do with preventing a future recession, and the particular provision that we are talking about with the underlying bill has nothing to do with preventing a future recession. What it does do is take the bill we have right now—not the underlying bill but the law we have right now—and take authority away from the American people.

We have sat back the last several years and watched this administration go through negotiation and agreement after agreement that were bad for the American people. My colleague and I have agreed over and over again that the Iran deal was a bad deal for the American people. So why would we continue to cede control to foreign governments and groups?

I think the election that we just had was, in part, about taking control of our country back—taking it back from Federal overreach and taking it back from ceding authority to people in other countries.

This bill, the underlying bill that this rule deals with, gets that authority back for the American people and gets the control back to the States, where it has been successful for 150 years. That is what is good for the American people, and that is why we have chosen to bring this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 944 and the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 944 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC 7. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2963) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage domestic insourcing and discourage foreign

outsourcing. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 8. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 2963.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's *Precedents of the House of Representatives* (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the *Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives*, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he

then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.”

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled “Amending Special Rules” states: “a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.” (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: “Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.”

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 7, 2016, at 12:24 p.m.:

Appointments:
United States-China Economic Security
Review Commission
Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

INDIAN EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND RELATED SERVICES CON- SOLIDATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 329) to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 329

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF SHORT TITLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 note; 106 Stat. 2302) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992’.”

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in law to the ‘Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992’ shall be deemed to be a reference to the ‘Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992’.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

Section 2 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking “The purposes of this Act are to demonstrate how Indian tribal governments can” and inserting “The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes and tribal organizations to”;

(2) by inserting “from diverse Federal sources” after “they provide”;

(3) by striking “and serve tribally-determined” and inserting “, and serve tribally determined”;

(4) by inserting “, while reducing administrative, reporting, and accounting costs” after “policy of self-determination”.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3402), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘tribe’ have the meaning given the term ‘Indian tribe’ in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).”

“(B) INCLUSION.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ includes tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)).”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means a program described in section 5(a).”.

SEC. 5. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AUTHORIZED.

Section 4 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25

U.S.C. 3403), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AUTHORIZED.

“The Secretary shall, after approving a plan submitted by an Indian tribe in accordance with section 8, authorize the Indian tribe to, in accordance with the plan—

“(1) integrate the programs and Federal funds received by the Indian tribe in accordance with waiver authority granted under section 7(d); and

“(2) coordinate the employment, training, and related services provided with those funds in a consolidated and comprehensive tribal plan.”.

SEC. 6. PROGRAMS AFFECTED AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Section 5 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3404), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. PROGRAMS AFFECTED.

“(a) PROGRAMS AFFECTED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The programs that may be integrated pursuant to a plan approved under section 8 shall be only programs—

“(A) implemented for the purpose of—

“(i) job training;

“(ii) welfare to work and tribal work experience;

“(iii) creating or enhancing employment opportunities;

“(iv) skill development;

“(v) assisting Indian youth and adults to succeed in the workforce;

“(vi) encouraging self-sufficiency;

“(vii) familiarizing individual participants with the world of work;

“(viii) facilitating the creation of job opportunities;

“(ix) economic development; or

“(x) any services related to the activities described in clauses (i) through (x); and

“(B) under which an Indian tribe or members of an Indian tribe—

“(i) are eligible to receive funds—

“(I) under a statutory or administrative formula making funds available to an Indian tribe; or

“(II) due to their status as Indians under Federal law; or

“(ii) have secured funds as a result of a competitive process, a noncompetitive process, or a specific designation.

“(2) TREATMENT OF BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.—For purposes of this section, programs funded by block grant funds provided to an Indian tribe, regardless of whether the block grant is for the benefit of the Indian tribe because of the status of the Indian tribe or the status of the beneficiaries the grant serves, shall be eligible to be integrated into the plan.

“(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall, in cooperation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, after the Secretary approves a plan submitted by an Indian tribe or tribal organization under section 8, authorize the Indian tribe or tribal organization, as applicable, to coordinate, in accordance with the plan, federally funded employment, training, and related services programs and funding in a manner that integrates the programs and funding into a consolidated and comprehensive program.”.

SEC. 7. PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

Section 6 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25

U.S.C. 3405), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 6. PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

“A plan submitted to the Secretary for approval under this Act shall—

“(1) identify the programs to be integrated and consolidated;

“(2) be consistent with the purposes of this Act;

“(3) describe—

“(A) a comprehensive strategy identifying the full range of potential employment opportunities on and near the service area of the Indian tribe;

“(B) the education, training, and related services to be provided to assist Indians to access those employment opportunities;

“(C) the way in which services and program funds are to be integrated, consolidated, and delivered; and

“(D) the results expected, including the expected number of program participants in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program, from the plan;

“(4) identify the projected expenditures under the plan in a single budget covering all consolidated funds;

“(5) identify any agency of the Indian tribe to be involved in the delivery of the services integrated under the plan;

“(6) identify any statutory provisions, regulations, policies, or procedures that the Indian tribe believes need to be waived to implement the plan; and

“(7) be approved by the governing body of the Indian tribe.”.

SEC. 8. PLAN REVIEW; WAIVER AUTHORITY; AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

Section 7 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3406), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7. PLAN REVIEW.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of a plan from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall consult with—

“(1) the head of each Federal agency overseeing a program identified in the plan; and

“(2) the Indian tribe that submitted the plan.

“(b) IDENTIFICATION OF WAIVERS.—The parties identified in subsection (a) shall identify any waivers of applicable statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirements, or of Federal agency policies or procedures necessary to enable the Indian tribe to efficiently implement the plan.

“(c) TRIBAL WAIVER REQUEST.—In consultation with the Secretary, a participating Indian tribe may request that the head of each affected agency waive any statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirement, policy, or procedure identified subsection (b).

“(d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of each affected Federal agency shall waive any applicable statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirement, regulation, policy, or procedure promulgated by the agency that has been identified by the parties under subparagraph (b).

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The head of an affected Federal agency shall not grant a waiver under paragraph (1) if the head of the affected agency determines that a waiver will be inconsistent with—

“(A) the purposes of this Act; or

“(B) the provision of law from which the program included in the plan derives its authority that is specifically applicable to Indians.

“(e) DECISION ON WAIVER REQUEST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the head of an affected agency receives

a waiver request, the head of the affected agency shall decide whether to grant or deny the request.

“(2) DENIAL OF REQUEST.—If the head of the affected agency denies a waiver request, not later than 30 days after the date on which the denial is made, the head of the affected agency shall provide the requesting Indian tribe and the Secretary with written notice of the denial and the reasons for the denial.

“(3) FAILURE TO ACT ON REQUEST.—If the head of an affected agency does not make a decision under paragraph (1) by the deadline identified in that paragraph, the request shall be considered to be granted.

“(f) SECRETARIAL REVIEW.—If the head of an affected agency denies a waiver request under subsection (e)(2), not later than 30 days after the date on which the request is denied, the Secretary shall review the denial and determine whether granting the waiver—

“(1) will be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act; or

“(2) will prevent the affected agency from fulfilling the obligations of the affected agency under this Act.

“(g) INTERAGENCY DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary determines that granting the waiver will not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and will not prevent the affected agency from fulfilling the obligations of the affected agency under this Act, the Secretary shall establish and initiate an interagency dispute resolution process involving—

“(A) the Secretary;

“(B) the participating Indian tribe; and

“(C) the head of the affected agency.

“(2) DURATION.—A dispute subject to paragraph (1) shall be resolved not later than 30 days after the date on which the process is initiated.

“(h) FINAL AUTHORITY.—If the dispute resolution process fails to resolve the dispute between a participating Indian tribe and an affected agency, the head of the affected agency shall have the final authority to resolve the dispute.

“(i) FINAL DECISION.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the dispute is resolved under this section, the Secretary shall provide the requesting Indian tribe with—

“(1) the final decision on the waiver request; and

“(2) notice of the right to file an appeal in accordance with the applicable provisions described in section 8(d).”.

SEC. 9. PLAN APPROVAL; SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY; REVIEW OF DECISION.

Section 8 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3407), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. PLAN APPROVAL; SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY; REVIEW OF DECISION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall have exclusive authority to approve or disapprove a plan submitted by an Indian tribe in accordance with section 6.

“(b) APPROVAL PROCESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a plan, the Secretary shall, after coordinating with the Secretary of each Federal agency providing funds to be used to implement the plan, approve or deny the plan.

“(2) APPROVAL.—If the Secretary approves a plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall authorize the transfer of program funds identified in the plan in accordance with section 13.

“(3) DENIAL.—If the Secretary denies the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe a written noti-

fication of disapproval of the plan that contains a specific finding that clearly demonstrates, or that is supported by a controlling legal authority, that the plan does not meet the requirements described in section 6.

“(4) PARTIAL APPROVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan is denied under paragraph (3) solely on the basis that a request for a waiver that is part of the plan has not been approved (or is subject to dispute resolution) under section 7, the Secretary shall, upon a request from the tribe, grant partial approval for those portions of the plan not affected by the request for a waiver.

“(B) APPROVAL AFTER RESOLUTION.—With respect to a plan described in subparagraph (A), on resolution of the request for a waiver under section 7, the Secretary shall, on a request from the tribe, approve the plan or amended plan not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the request.

“(5) FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Secretary does not make a decision under paragraph (1) within 90 days of the date on which the Secretary receives the plan, the plan shall be considered to be approved.

“(c) EXTENSION OF TIME.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may extend or otherwise alter the 90-day period identified in subsection (b)(1) for not more than 90 additional days, if, before the expiration of the period, the Secretary obtains the express written consent of the Indian tribe.

“(d) REVIEW OF DENIAL.—

“(1) PROCEDURE UPON REFUSAL TO APPROVE PLAN.—If the Secretary denies a plan under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary shall—

“(A) state any objections in writing to the Indian tribe;

“(B) provide assistance to the Indian tribe to overcome the stated objections; and

“(C) unless the Indian tribe brings a civil action under paragraph (2), provide the Indian tribe with a hearing on the record with the right to engage in full discovery relevant to any issue raised in the matter and the opportunity for appeal on the objections raised, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may promulgate.

“(2) CIVIL ACTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The district courts of the United States shall have original jurisdiction of a civil action against the appropriate Secretary arising under this section.

“(B) ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING AND APPEAL NOT REQUIRED.—An Indian tribe may bring a civil action under this paragraph without regard to whether the Indian tribe had a hearing or filed an appeal under paragraph (1).

“(C) RELIEF.—In an action brought under this paragraph, the court may order appropriate relief (including injunctive relief to reverse a denial of a plan under this section or to compel an officer or employee of the United States, or any agency thereof, to perform a duty provided under this Act or regulations promulgated thereunder) against any action by an officer or employee of the United States or any agency thereof contrary to this Act or regulations promulgated thereunder.

“(3) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a decision by an official of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Health and Human Services, as appropriate (collectively referred to in this paragraph as the ‘Department’) that constitutes final agency action and that relates to an appeal within the Department that is conducted under paragraph (1)(C) shall be made—

“(A) by an official of the Department who holds a position at a higher organizational level within the Department than the level of the departmental agency (such as the Indian Health Service or the Bureau of Indian

Affairs) in which the decision that is the subject of the appeal was made; or

“(B) by an administrative law judge.”.

SEC. 10. EMPLOYER TRAINING PLACEMENTS.

Section 10 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3409), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. EMPLOYER TRAINING PLACEMENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act may use the funds made available for the plan under this Act—

“(1) to place participants in training positions with employers; and

“(2) to pay the participants a training allowance or wage for a training period of not more than 24 months, which may be non-consecutive.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—An Indian tribe may carry out subsection (a) only if the Indian tribe enters into a written agreement with each applicable employer under which the employer shall agree—

“(1) to provide on-the-job training to the participants; and

“(2) on satisfactory completion of the training period described in subsection (a)(2), to prioritize the provision of permanent employment to the participants.”.

SEC. 11. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 11 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3410), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 11. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

“(a) LEAD AGENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the lead agency responsible for implementation of this Act shall be the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The responsibilities of the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in carrying out this Act shall include—

“(A) in coordination with the head of each Federal agency overseeing a program identified in the plan, the development of a single model report for each Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act to submit to the Director reports on any consolidated activities undertaken and joint expenditures made under the plan;

“(B) the provision, directly or through contract, of appropriate voluntary and technical assistance to participating Indian tribes;

“(C) the development and use of a single monitoring and oversight system for plans approved under this Act;

“(D)(i) the receipt of all funds covered by a plan approved under this Act; and

“(ii) the distribution of the funds to the respective Indian tribes by not later than 45 days after the date of receipt of the funds from the appropriate Federal department or agency; and

“(E)(i) the performance of activities described in section 7 relating to agency waivers; and

“(ii) the establishment of an interagency dispute resolution process.

“(3) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016, the Secretary (acting through the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs), in conjunction with the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs and the Attorney General, shall enter into an interdepartmental memorandum of agreement providing for the implementation of this Act.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The memorandum of agreement under subparagraph (A) shall include provisions relating to—

“(i) an annual meeting of participating Indian tribes and Federal departments and agencies, to be co-chaired by—

“(I) a representative of the President; and

“(II) a representative of the participating Indian tribes;

“(ii) an annual review of the achievements under this Act, including the number and percentage of program participants in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program, and any statutory, regulatory, administrative, or policy obstacles that prevent participating Indian tribes from fully and efficiently carrying out the purposes of this Act; and

“(iii) a forum comprised of participating Indian tribes and Federal departments and agencies to identify and resolve interagency conflicts and conflicts between the Federal Government and Indian tribes in the administration of this Act.

“(b) REPORT FORMAT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall develop and distribute to Indian tribes that have in place an approved plan under this Act a single report format, in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The lead agency shall ensure that the report format developed under paragraph (1), together with records maintained by each participating Indian tribe, contains information sufficient—

“(A) to determine whether the Indian tribe has complied with the requirements of the approved plan of the Indian tribe;

“(B) to determine the number and percentage of program participants in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program; and

“(C) to provide assurances to the head of each applicable Federal department or agency that the Indian tribe has complied with all directly applicable statutory and regulatory requirements not waived under section 7.

“(3) LIMITATION.—The report format developed under paragraph (1) shall not require a participating Indian tribe to report on the expenditure of funds expressed by fund source or single agency code transferred to the Indian tribe under an approved plan under this Act but instead shall require the Indian tribe to submit a single report on the expenditure of consolidated funds under such plan.”.

SEC. 12. NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.

Section 12 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3411), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12. NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In no case shall the amount of Federal funds available to an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act be reduced as a result of—

“(1) the enactment of this Act; or

“(2) the approval or implementation of a plan of an Indian tribe under this Act.

“(b) INTERACTION WITH OTHER LAWS.—The inclusion of a program in a tribal plan under this Act shall not—

“(1) modify, limit, or otherwise affect the eligibility of the program for contracting under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.); or

“(2) eliminate the applicability of any provision of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), as the provision relates to a specific program eligible for contracting under that Act.”.

SEC. 13. TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Section 13 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25

U.S.C. 3412), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 13. TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date of apportionment to the applicable Federal department or agency, the head of a Federal agency overseeing a program identified in a plan approved under this Act shall transfer to the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for distribution to an Indian tribe any funds identified in the approved plan of the Indian tribe.

“(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, at the request of the Indian tribe, all program funds transferred to an Indian tribe in accordance with the approved plan of the Indian tribe shall be transferred to the Indian tribe pursuant to an existing contract, compact, or funding agreement awarded pursuant to title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).”.

SEC. 14. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.

Section 14 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3413), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (d);

(2) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 14. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.

“(a) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) CONSOLIDATION AND REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all amounts transferred to a tribe pursuant to an approved plan may be consolidated, reallocated, and rebudgeted as specified in the approved plan to best meet the employment, training, and related needs of the local community served by the Indian tribe.

“(B) AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS.—The amounts used to carry out a plan approved under this Act shall be administered in such manner as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to ensure the amounts are spent on activities authorized under the approved plan.

“(C) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section interferes with the ability of the Secretary or the lead agency to use accounting procedures that conform to generally accepted accounting principles, auditing procedures, and safeguarding of funds that conform to chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Single Audit Act of 1984’).

“(2) SEPARATE RECORDS AND AUDITS NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations and circulars of any agency (including Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133)), an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act shall not be required—

“(A) to maintain separate records that trace any service or activity conducted under the approved plan to the program for which the funds were initially authorized or transferred;

“(B) to allocate expenditures among such a program; or

“(C) to audit expenditures by the original source of the program.

“(b) CARRYOVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any funds transferred to an Indian tribe under this Act that are not obligated or expended prior to the beginning of the fiscal year after the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated shall remain available for obligation or expenditure without fiscal year limitation, subject to the condition that the funds shall be obligated or

expended in accordance with the approved plan of the Indian tribe.

“(2) NO ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION.—The Indian tribe shall not be required to provide any additional justification or documentation of the purposes of the approved plan as a condition of receiving or expending the funds.

“(c) INDIRECT COSTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an Indian tribe shall be entitled to recover 100 percent of any indirect costs incurred by the Indian tribe as a result of the transfer of funds to the Indian tribe under this Act.”; and

(3) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))—

(A) by striking “All administrative” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—All administrative”; and

(B) by striking “regulations” and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting the following: “regulations).

“(2) TREATMENT.—The amount equal to the difference between the amount of the commingled funds and the actual administrative cost of the programs, as described in paragraph (1), shall be considered to be properly spent for Federal audit purposes if the amount is used to achieve the purposes of this Act.

“(e) MATCHING FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds transferred to an Indian tribe under this Act shall be treated as non-Federal funds for purposes of meeting matching requirements under any other Federal law, except those administered by the Department of Labor or the Department of Health and Human Services.

“(f) CLAIMS.—The following provisions of law shall apply to plans approved under this Act:

“(1) Section 314 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1991 (Public Law 101-512; 104 Stat. 1959).

“(2) Chapter 171 of title 28 (commonly known as the ‘Federal Tort Claims Act’).

“(g) INTEREST OR OTHER INCOME.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe shall be entitled to retain interest earned on any funds transferred to the tribe under an approved plan and such interest shall not diminish the amount of funds the Indian tribe is authorized to receive under the plan in the year the interest is earned or in any subsequent fiscal year.

“(2) PRUDENT INVESTMENT.—Funds transferred under a plan shall be managed in accordance with the prudent investment standard.”.

SEC. 15. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ON INDIAN WORK FORCE.

Section 17(a) of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3416(a)), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and all that follows through “manner,” and inserting “The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary, Indian tribes, and the Director of the Bureau of the Census, shall”; and

(2) by striking “, by gender,”.

SEC. 16. REPEALS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) REPEALS.—Sections 15 and 16 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3414, 3415), as amended by section 2 of this Act, are repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Sections 17 and 18 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3416, 3417) (as amended by this Act) are redesignated as sections 15 and 16, respectively.

SEC. 17. EFFECT OF ACT.

Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act—

(1) affects any plan approved under the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.) (as so redesignated) before the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) requires any Indian tribe or tribal organization to resubmit a plan described in paragraph (1); or

(3) modifies the effective period of any plan described in paragraph (1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act, will empower tribes and tribal organizations to offer workforce development issues that uplift Native communities throughout the country. This bipartisan legislation will make the tribal 477 program permanent and make improvements to its administration.

The 477 program was established in 1992—by the way, I was the sponsor of that legislation at that time, also—as a demonstration program. It allows tribes to combine employment, child care, and job training funding from a variety of Federal sources to conduct consolidated, comprehensive reporting. This has enabled tribes to run innovative programs and saved both the tribes and the Federal Government money and resources.

I would suggest respectfully that this is a great piece of legislation. The 477 program embodies tribal self-determination by allowing tribes to provide opportunities tailored to the unique needs of their communities. Significant education and training needs exist in Indian country, and the 477 program has a proven track record of success. This is particularly true in Alaska, where the Cook Inlet Tribal Council has pioneered a smart model that provides holistic services, all under one roof, for individuals and families.

My bill improves accounting procedures and reporting mechanisms to uphold the original intent of the program, ensures that agencies treat tribes fairly, and sets a foundation for participants’ continued success.

I especially, at this time, would like to thank the members of the 477 tribal work group who, over the past 4 years, have been dedicated to developing and advancing this legislation. Without the

work group’s tireless advocacy, this bill would not have been possible.

I would also like to thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA and their staffs for their work on the bill and commitment to advancing it through the process. I would specifically like to recognize Ken Degenfelder on Chairman BISHOP’s staff and Alex Ortiz on my staff.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to Chairman BRADY, Chairman KLINE, and Chairman GOODLATTE and their staffs for working together on the committee on which I serve to improve this bill.

I would like to thank them for agreeing to help expedite consideration of this bill today, and I urge adoption of H.R. 329.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE,

Washington, DC, December 5, 2106.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Education and the Workforce with regard to H.R. 329 on those matters within my committee’s jurisdiction and making improvements to the legislation to address concerns.

In the interest of expediting the House’s consideration of H.R. 329, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will forgo further consideration of this bill. However, I do so only with the understanding this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice my committee’s jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my committee in the future.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I also request you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee Report on H.R. 329 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On November 16, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported as amended H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016. The bill was sequentially referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce until December 8, 2016.

I understand our staffs have been able to negotiate out text that is agreeable to you. Therefore, I ask that you allow the Committee on Ways and Means to be discharged

from further consideration of the bill before December 8, 2016, so that this revised text for H.R. 329 may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to submit this letter and any response to the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you next Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: I write with respect to H.R. 329, the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015," on which the Committee on Ways and Means received a sequential referral.

I appreciate your willingness to work with my Committee on this legislation. In order to allow H.R. 329 to move expeditiously to the House floor, I agree to forgo a markup of this bill. The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with our mutual understanding that by forgoing consideration of H.R. 329 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,

Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On November 16, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported as amended H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016. The bill was sequentially referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Education and the Workforce until December 8, 2016.

I understand our staffs have been able to negotiate out text that is agreeable to you. Therefore, I ask that you allow the Committee on Ways and Means to be discharged from further consideration of the bill before December 8, 2016, so that this revised text for H.R. 329 may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of

the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to submit this letter and any response to the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you next Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2016.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On March 16, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported as amended H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016, by unanimous consent. My staff has shared the reported text of the bill with your staff.

The reported bill contains provisions regarding judicial review, a matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. Specifically, section 9 of the bill amends section 8(d) of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 to provide for judicial review of the Secretary of the Interior's denial of a plan. I understand that you have concerns regarding this provision. Based on my agreement to drop this text from the bill when it is considered by the House of Representatives, I ask that the Committee on the Judiciary not seek a sequential referral of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader before the House adjourns for the election. This concession in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary and the issues raised by the omitted text are within the scope of the conference, I would support your request to have the Committee on the Judiciary represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the Congressional Record to document this agreement.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 329, the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act." I appreciate your willingness to work with me on this issue.

As you note in your letter, the reported bill contains provisions regarding judicial review that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. Specifically, section 9 of the bill amends section 8(d) of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 to provide for judicial review of the Secretary of the Interior's denial of a plan. The Judiciary Committee has concerns with this provision. However, based on your agreement to drop

this text from the bill or similar legislation when it is considered by the House, the Judiciary Committee will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. The Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by forgoing a sequential referral of H.R. 329 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in your committee report and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 329.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,

Chairman.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Public Law 102-477 established what is commonly known as the 477 program to foster employment and economic development in Indian country. This highly successful program authorizes tribal governments to consolidate up to 13 different Federal grant programs into a single plan with a single budget and a single reporting system.

Current participants in the program have significantly improved effectiveness of the delivery of services included in the 477 plan, while lowering administrative costs. These cost savings have been translated into more and better direct services for their communities.

H.R. 329 will build on this success by permanently authorizing the program, by increasing the scope and availability of participating Federal grant programs, and by setting a streamlined process for tribes to follow.

I want to congratulate Chairman YOUNG for his tireless work on this legislation and for putting together a piece of legislation that we should always consider and for bringing together all of the stakeholders to address the concerns and find a workable solution.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge passage of the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concerns with H.R. 329. While the legislation seeks to provide additional flexibility and support to Indian tribes—a worthy goal—I remain concerned that it could have the effect of weakening the services provided to families and children in Indian tribes.

Currently, Indian tribes have the option to consolidate certain federal funding streams related to work and job training into one grant. H.R. 329 includes a number of changes to this consolidation option and expands the number of programs that can be consolidated.

The legislation could be interpreted in an overly broad fashion resulting in the inclusion of programs that may not be appropriate to include—programs or services only “relating to” job training, skill development, and economic development, or other related goals.

The Education and the Workforce Committee, on which I serve as Ranking Member, was given a sequential jurisdictional referral on this legislation, but has not considered the legislation nor considered its impact on education and training programs within our jurisdiction.

Specifically, our Committee has an interest in ensuring that program funds are used for their intended purpose. Whether the TANF program or Head Start, adequate reporting and oversight protect beneficiaries and ensure the quality of services. For example, Head Start performance standards are vital to the success of the program.

While I do not intend to oppose the legislation, I encourage continued robust oversight of the programs impacted by this bill to ensure that quality and effective education and job training programs remain available to our nation’s tribes.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015.

In particular, I’m grateful for the opportunity I had to work with Representative YOUNG and the Natural Resources Committee to address some concerns I had with a previous version of the bill, and I’m grateful for the collaborative effort between our two committees so this bill can move forward today.

Under current law, Indian tribes can combine funding for employment, training, and related services to streamline their administration of social service programs—often referred to as “section 477 demonstration projects.” Many times the dollar amounts received from the individual programs are rather small, so being able to combine funds with similar purposes allows tribes to achieve more effective economies of scale. However, in recent years these tribes have run into challenges as they have sought to operate these demonstration projects to best serve their members. The goal of H.R. 329 is to clarify confusion related to these demonstration projects, increase the flexibility Indian tribes have in consolidating these programs, and ensure accountability of taxpayer dollars.

While I agreed with the general intent of the prior version of this bill, I was concerned that it may have unintentionally undermined important requirements in current law for programs under Ways and Means jurisdiction, such as TANF and child care. To balance the goal of increased flexibility for tribes with appropriate oversight and accountability, I asked Representative YOUNG to amend the text to ensure the bill would not:

Undermine important rules regarding how funds appropriated for specific purposes can be used;

Eliminate requirements specifying how the spending of consolidated funds must be accounted for; and

Change how funds authorized by the Ways and Means Committee are treated for matching purposes.

First, I’m glad this bill now reiterates that agencies providing funding to tribes have the authority to approve or deny waivers of key

program provisions. For example, this would mean the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) could deny an Indian tribe’s request to use federal child care funds for the purchase or improvement of land, as such use of child care funds is not permitted under current law. HHS could also forbid a tribe from using federal TANF funds to pay for medical services, something states and tribes are not permitted to do under current law. At the same time, agencies and departments, like HHS, are encouraged to waive program requirements when they will assist the tribe in streamlining the administration of their social service programs to better serve their members, as long as they don’t undermine the central purposes for which the money was originally appropriated.

Second, there was some concern that the bill would eliminate requirements that tribes report how they spend funds consolidated in section 477 projects. Mr. YOUNG has modified the bill to reiterate that tribes must report how funds are spent, but that they will not be required to report spending by specific program. Since 2011, a tribal working group has worked diligently to simplify tribal financial reporting, and the group has recently agreed upon a unified financial report that allows tribes to report by category, instead of by program. This form allows taxpayers to understand broadly how dollars are spent, without requiring tribes to maintain complex accounting systems necessary to report on spending per the rules for each separate program. This form is now in use, and I hope this working group, or future iterations of it, will continue to engage, as needed, to ensure this form adequately serves all stakeholders in the same manner.

Third, the earlier version of this bill allowed tribes operating section 477 projects to count federal funding received through HHS and the Department of Labor (DOL) to count as tribal spending for matching purposes. Because this would have allowed tribes to use federal funds as match to draw down additional federal dollars—and because it would have advantaged tribes operating these demonstrations compared to those not operating these demos—I asked that this language not apply to funding administered by HHS and DOL. Mr. YOUNG agreed to incorporate this change, and I’m grateful for his willingness to do so.

Finally, I’m glad we could work together to restore language in the bill regarding coordination between the Department of the Interior and other departments as these projects are approved. It is important that agencies work together to ensure tribes have the flexibility they need to streamline their services, while maintaining a balance between flexibility and accountability.

Together, these changes will support tribes as they seek to better serve their members, while maintaining appropriate accountability of taxpayer dollars and ensuring funds are used to meet the goals for which they were appropriated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 329, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM BOUNDARIES REVISION

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6400) to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6400

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPLACEMENT OF JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The map subtitled “Seidler Beach Unit NJ-02, Cliffwood Beach Unit NJ-03P, Conaskonk Point Unit NJ-04”, dated August 1, 2014, that is included in the set of maps entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System” referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)) and relating to certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey, is hereby replaced by another map subtitled “Seidler Beach Unit NJ-02/NJ-02P, Cliffwood Beach Unit NJ-03P, Conaskonk Point Unit NJ-04, Sayreville Unit NJ-15P, Matawan Point Unit NJ-16P” and dated October 7, 2016.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the replacement map referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6400, introduced by my colleague, Mr. PALLONE, makes boundary adjustments to multiple units of the Coastal Barrier Resources System along the coast of his New Jersey congressional district. I have no objection to this bill and compliment the gentleman for introducing the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act—or CoBRA—the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identifies hazardous areas on

the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and submits maps to Congress recommending that we make Federal subsidies off limits to people who choose to develop those lands.

This is a commonsense, scientific, fiscally conservative way to protect private property and public infrastructure, while also ensuring that taxpayers do not have to foot the bill for risky coastal development. In this time of rising sea levels and increased storm surge brought on by climate change, CoBRA is becoming more and more important every day.

H.R. 6400 would adjust the boundaries of several Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey, including one that contains an important flood control structure. These changes have been carefully mapped by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and reflect improvements in technology that have allowed us to show with great accuracy which parcels of land do and do not constitute "coastal barrier resources" under the law.

As a result, numerous properties that were originally included by mistake will be removed, and other properties that have been identified as at-risk will be included.

These changes to the C.B.R.S. are protective of private property rights, the environment, and the taxpayers, and I support passage of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the author of the bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6400.

This bill is extremely important to my constituents, especially those living in Union Beach, New Jersey. Passing this bill will allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move forward on an important flood control project for Union Beach.

H.R. 6400 would realign the mapping of several New Jersey units of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resource System. Congressional approval is required for any changes to these maps by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Over the past year, the Fish and Wildlife Service worked with the Corps to make noncontroversial changes to the mapping, completed its review, and transmitted them to Congress on November 21 of this year.

Until these maps are approved by Congress, Mr. Speaker, the Union Beach flood control project will be in limbo. The Corps cannot sign a project partnership agreement or make other progress until the updated maps are approved.

Union Beach was devastated by Superstorm Sandy, and residents have been waiting far too long for this project to be completed. It was initially authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 on November 8, 2007, and funding and authorization for the project came from Sandy relief funding in 2013.

Moving forward on this project is a priority for the State of New Jersey, local authorities in Union Beach, and the Army Corps; however, that can only be done if Congress approves the new maps, which it can do by passing H.R. 6400.

Again, passing this bill is vitally important. It is noncontroversial. I want to thank Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and House leadership for allowing this legislation to be considered under suspension of the rules.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6400. The people of Union Beach have waited long enough to rebuild and protect their community from future storms.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I would like to compliment the gentleman from New Jersey. I do hope he understands that this is his district and I will support his legislation. I would like to have him do the same thing when I bring legislation to the floor that only affects my district.

So, with courtesy to him, I will urge a "yes" vote on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6400.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHICANO PARK PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3711) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3711

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Chicano Park Preservation Act".

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) *STUDY.*—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park and its murals located in San Diego, California.

(b) *CONTENTS.*—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) *evaluate the national significance of the site;*

(2) *determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a National Historic Landmark or Affiliated Area of the National Park System;*

(3) *consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of Chicano Park and its murals by Federal, State, or local governmental entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;*

(4) *consult with interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations or any other interested individuals; and*

(5) *identify cost estimates for any development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.*

(c) *APPLICABLE LAW.*—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code, except that the study shall not consider any options that involve Federal acquisition of lands, interests in lands, or any other property related to the Chicano Park and its murals.

(d) *REPORT.*—Not later than 18 months after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing the results of the study and any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, located in the Barrio Logan community of San Diego, Chicano Park is a 7.4-acre parcel known for its display of nearly 50 vibrant murals depicting the history, culture, and its civil rights movement.

□ 1315

Residents secured the creation of the park in 1970 by protesting the construction of a parking lot on the vacant land the city previously promised for the development of the community park. After successfully taking over the land, artists painted dozens of vibrant murals on the pillars and ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge located in the park, creating the largest concentration of these murals in the world.

H.R. 3711 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the national significance of the park, determine the suitability and feasibility of designating it as a national historic landmark or affiliated area of the National Park Service through a special resource study. The bill prohibits the Secretary from considering any options that result in the Federal acquisition of the park.

I urge adoption of this bill, H.R. 3711.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS).

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues for their support of H.R. 3711, the Chicano Park Preservation Act. Again, I thank the chairman for those kind words about the park. I appreciate it very much.

Ranking member, thank you again for allowing me to be here to support moving this legislation forward.

Chicano Park is a historic park under the San Diego-Coronado Bridge that embodies the spirit of the Hispanic culture in San Diego.

As was said, in the spring of 1970, the Barrio Logan community in San Diego united to advocate for the community park and, with the support of the city and State officials, the park was born. Since then, the park has been transformed by world-renowned muralists who have adorned the freeway pillars with breathtaking murals, sculptures, and architectural pieces that tell the story of the Hispanic community in San Diego.

Chicano Park is home to the largest collection of outdoor murals, 89 of them, in the country, in addition to various sculptures, earthworks, and an architectural piece dedicated to the cultural heritage of the community. The murals are recognized at the local, State, and national levels as historical, cultural, and public art.

This legislation, as was said, authorizes a special resource study of Chicano Park and its murals to evaluate the feasibility of the park becoming a national historic landmark or an Affiliated Area of the National Park Service.

It is also interesting that now the community has taken it on as a community park. Unfortunately, the area has very few parks, and this is one of the places where the community now, since 1970, has been coming and having picnics there with their families, their children, and it has become really a wonderful opportunity for the people that live in the community.

Even more than that, if you go there on a Saturday, you will find artists and different people from throughout the State, and Arizona, and other places coming to look at the murals and to look at the art. It is quite a vibrant area. If you take a look at some of the things that are sold in the area, you will see T-shirts and you will see lots of cultural food. It has become a wonderful place for everyone to come together.

So I appreciate very much the opportunity here, and I thank the ranking member, and especially the chairman, for this opportunity. Again, I encourage them to come to the park. It is not quite as grand as some of the things in Alaska, and I look to going to Alaska some day because I have only seen them in the pictures. Again, I thank you for your kind words about the park.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers on this legislation. I do urge the passage of the legislation as a classic example of

where people are working together to have a place to rest and save some great art. I congratulate the gentleman for introducing the legislation. So I urge the passage of the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will permit the National Park Service to study and evaluate the Chicano Park for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and possibly to become an affiliated site of the agency.

Chicano Park has come to represent not only the civil rights struggles and victories for the residents of the Barrio Logan community, but has become a center for discussions around civil rights movements for all Mexican Americans today.

Today, this space has become a vibrant expression of the history and concerns of the community and, because of their efforts, I know it will continue to remain a relevant site for generations to come. I am glad to see that this community will receive the national recognition it deserves.

I thank my colleague, Congressman VARGAS, for introducing this bill, and I am very pleased to see that we are able to move this through the House expeditiously.

I would also like to, one day, visit Alaska, but at this point in time I urge adoption of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would assure both gentlemen, Alaska will welcome you on a visit. I hope to visit both of their communities in the future. The only way we can get things done around here is if we understand your locations, your people, and what you will treasure, as I do in my State of Alaska.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3711, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 944;

Adoption of House Resolution 944, if ordered;

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1219; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3028.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5143, TRANSPARENT INSURANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 9, 2016, THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2017; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 944) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5143) to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from December 9, 2016, through January 3, 2017; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 231, nays 178, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 609]

YEAS—231

Abraham	Crawford	Herrera Beutler
Aderholt	Culberson	Hice, Jody B.
Allen	Curbelo (FL)	Hill
Amash	Davidson	Holding
Amodei	Davis, Rodney	Hudson
Babin	Denham	Huelskamp
Barletta	Dent	Huizenga (MI)
Barr	DeSantis	Hultgren
Barton	DesJarlais	Hunter
Benishek	Diaz-Balart	Hurd (TX)
Bilirakis	Dold	Hurt (VA)
Bishop (MI)	Donovan	Issa
Bishop (UT)	Duffy	Jenkins (KS)
Black	Duncan (SC)	Jenkins (WV)
Blackburn	Duncan (TN)	Johnson (OH)
Blum	Emmer (MN)	Johnson, Sam
Bost	Farenthold	Jones
Boustany	Fleischmann	Jordan
Brady (TX)	Fleming	Joyce
Brat	Flores	Katko
Bridenstine	Fortenberry	Kelly (MS)
Brooks (AL)	Fox	Kelly (PA)
Brooks (IN)	Franks (AZ)	King (IA)
Buchanan	Frelinghuysen	King (NY)
Buck	Gibbs	Kinzing (IL)
Bucshon	Gibson	Kline
Burgess	Gohmert	Knight
Byrne	Goodlatte	Labrador
Calvert	Gosar	LaHood
Carter (GA)	Gowdy	LaMalfa
Carter (TX)	Granger	Lamborn
Chabot	Graves (GA)	Lance
Chaffetz	Graves (LA)	Latta
Clawson (FL)	Griffith	LoBiondo
Coffman	Grothman	Long
Cole	Guinta	Loudermilk
Collins (GA)	Guthrie	Love
Collins (NY)	Hanna	Lucas
Comer	Hardy	Luetkemeyer
Comstock	Harper	Lummis
Conaway	Harris	Marchant
Cook	Hartzler	Marino
Costello (PA)	Heck (NV)	Massie
Cramer	Hensarling	McCarthy

McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom

Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)

Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Witman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zinke

NAYS—178

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Foster
Frankel (FL)

Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler

Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—24

Brown (FL)
Clyburn
Crenshaw
Ellmers (NC)
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Forbes

Garrett
Graves (MO)
Honda
Jolly
Kirkpatrick
Lee
MacArthur
Miller (MI)

Poe (TX)
Rothfus
Sanchez, Loretta
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Tiberi
Westmoreland
Zeldin

□ 1349

Messrs. CICILLINE, PETERS, VELA, and VISCLOSKY changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 232, noes 180, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 610]

AYES—232

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Culbertson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)

Duncan (TN)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador

LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)

Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster

Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden

NOES—180

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)

Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler

Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—21

Brown (FL)
Clyburn
Crenshaw
Ellmers (NC)
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Forbes

Garrett
Graves (MO)
Honda
Jolly
Kirkpatrick
Lee
MacArthur

Miller (MI)
Poe (TX)
Rothfus
Sanchez, Loretta
Serrano
Tiberi
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1357

Mrs. TORRES changed her vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ARBUCKLE PROJECT MAINTENANCE COMPLEX AND DISTRICT OFFICE CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1219) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and appurtenances of the Arbuckle Project, Oklahoma, to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 611]

YEAS—412

Abraham	Cartwright	Dold
Adams	Castor (FL)	Donovan
Aderholt	Castro (TX)	Doyle, Michael
Aguilar	Chabot	F.
Allen	Chaffetz	Duckworth
Amodei	Chu, Judy	Duffy
Ashford	Cicilline	Duncan (SC)
Babin	Clark (MA)	Duncan (TN)
Barletta	Clarke (NY)	Edwards
Barr	Clawson (FL)	Ellison
Barton	Clay	Emmer (MN)
Bass	Cleaver	Engel
Beatty	Coffman	Eshoo
Becerra	Cohen	Esty
Benishek	Cole	Evans
Bera	Collins (GA)	Farenthold
Beyer	Collins (NY)	Farr
Bilirakis	Comer	Fleischmann
Bishop (GA)	Comstock	Fleming
Bishop (MI)	Conaway	Flores
Bishop (UT)	Connolly	Forbes
Black	Conyers	Fortenberry
Blackburn	Cook	Foster
Blum	Cooper	Fox
Blumenauer	Costa	Frankel (FL)
Bonamici	Costello (PA)	Franks (AZ)
Bost	Courtney	Frelinghuysen
Boustany	Cramer	Fudge
Boyle, Brendan	Crawford	Gabbard
F.	Crowley	Galleo
Brady (PA)	Cuellar	Garamendi
Brady (TX)	Culberson	Gibbs
Brat	Cummings	Gibson
Bridenstine	Curbelo (FL)	Gohmert
Brooks (AL)	Davidson	Goodlatte
Brooks (IN)	Davis (CA)	Gosar
Brownley (CA)	Davis, Danny	Gowdy
Buchanan	Davis, Rodney	Graham
Buck	DeFazio	Granger
Bucshon	DeGette	Graves (GA)
Burgess	Delaney	Graves (LA)
Bustos	DeLauro	Grayson
Butterfield	DelBene	Green, Al
Byrne	Denham	Green, Gene
Calvert	Dent	Griffith
Capps	DeSantis	Grijalva
Capuano	DeSaulnier	Grothman
Cárdenas	DesJarlais	Guinta
Carney	Deutch	Guthrie
Carson (IN)	Diaz-Balart	Gutiérrez
Carter (GA)	Dingell	Hanabusa
Carter (TX)	Doggett	Hanna

Hardy	Marino	Ruiz
Harper	Massie	Ruppersberger
Harris	Matsui	Rush
Hartzler	McCarthy	Russell
Hastings	McCaul	Ryan (OH)
Heck (NV)	McClintock	Salmon
Heck (WA)	McCollum	Sánchez, Linda
Hensarling	McDermott	T.
Herrera Beutler	McGovern	Sanford
Hice, Jody B.	McHenry	Sarbanes
Higgins	McKinley	Scalise
Hill	McMorris	Schakowsky
Himes	Rodgers	Schiff
Hinojosa	McNerney	Schrader
Holding	McSally	Scott (VA)
Hoyer	Meadows	Scott, Austin
Hudson	Meehan	Scott, David
Huelskamp	Meeke	Sensenbrenner
Huffman	Meng	Sessions
Huizenga (MI)	Messer	Sewell (AL)
Hultgren	Mica	Sherman
Hunter	Miller (FL)	Shimkus
Hurd (TX)	Moolenaar	Shuster
Hurt (VA)	Mooney (WV)	Simpson
Israel	Moore	Sinema
Issa	Moulton	Sires
Jackson Lee	Mullin	Slaughter
Jeffries	Mulvaney	Smith (MO)
Jenkins (KS)	Murphy (FL)	Smith (NE)
Jenkins (WV)	Murphy (PA)	Smith (NJ)
Johnson (GA)	Nadler	Smith (TX)
Johnson (OH)	Napolitano	Smith (WA)
Johnson, E. B.	Neal	Speier
Johnson, Sam	Neugebauer	Stefanik
Jones	Newhouse	Stewart
Jordan	Noem	Stivers
Joyce	Nolan	Stutzman
Kaptur	Norcross	Swalwell (CA)
Katko	Nugent	Takano
Keating	Nunes	Thompson (CA)
Kelly (IL)	O'Rourke	Thompson (MS)
Kelly (MS)	Olson	Thompson (PA)
Kelly (PA)	Palazzo	Thornberry
Kennedy	Pallone	Tipton
Kildee	Palmer	Titus
Kilmer	Pascrell	Tonko
Kind	Paulsen	Torres
King (IA)	Payne	Trott
King (NY)	Pearce	Tsongas
Kinzinger (IL)	Pelosi	Turner
Kline	Perlmutter	Upton
Knight	Perry	Valadao
Kuster	Peters	Van Hollen
Labrador	Peterson	Vargas
LaHood	Pingree	Veasey
LaMalfa	Pittenger	Vela
Lamborn	Pitts	Velázquez
Lance	Visclosky	Wagner
Langevin	Poliquin	Walberg
Larsen (WA)	Polis	Walden
Larson (CT)	Pompeo	Walker
Latta	Posey	Walorski
Lawrence	Price (NC)	Walters, Mimi
Levin	Price, Tom	Walz
Lewis	Quigley	Wasserman
Lieu, Ted	Rangel	Schultz
Lipinski	Ratcliffe	Waters, Maxine
LoBiondo	Reed	Watson Coleman
Loeback	Reichert	Weber (TX)
Loftgren	Renacci	Webster (FL)
Long	Ribble	Welch
Loudermilk	Rice (NY)	Wenstrup
Love	Rice (SC)	Westerman
Lowenthal	Richmond	Williams
Lowe	Rigell	Wilson (FL)
Lucas	Roby	Wilson (SC)
Luetkemeyer	Roe (TN)	Wittman
Lujan Grisham	Rogers (AL)	Womack
(NM)	Rogers (KY)	Woodall
Lujan, Ben Ray	Rohrabacher	Yarmuth
(NM)	Rokita	Yoder
Lummis	Rooney (FL)	Yoho
Lynch	Ros-Lehtinen	Young (AK)
MacArthur	Roskam	Young (IA)
Maloney,	Ross	Young (IN)
Carolyn	Rouzer	Zeldin
Maloney, Sean	Roybal-Allard	Zinke
Marchant	Royce	

NAYS—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—20

Brown (FL)	Fitzpatrick	Kirkpatrick
Clyburn	Garrett	Lee
Crenshaw	Graves (MO)	Miller (MI)
Ellmers (NC)	Honda	Poe (TX)
Fincher	Jolly	

Rothfus	Schweikert	Tiberi
Sanchez, Loretta	Serrano	Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1405

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DANIEL J. EVANS OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3028) to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 8, answered “present” 2, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 612]

YEAS—401

Abraham	Capps	Davis, Rodney
Adams	Capuano	DeFazio
Aderholt	Cárdenas	DeGette
Aguilar	Carney	Delaney
Allen	Carson (IN)	DeLauro
Amodei	Carter (GA)	DeBene
Ashford	Carter (TX)	Denham
Babin	Cartwright	Dent
Barletta	Castor (FL)	DeSantis
Barr	Castro (TX)	DeSaulnier
Barton	Chabot	DesJarlais
Bass	Chaffetz	Deutch
Beatty	Chu, Judy	Diaz-Balart
Becerra	Cicilline	Dingell
Benishek	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Bera	Clarke (NY)	Dold
Beyer	Clawson (FL)	Donovan
Bilirakis	Clay	Doyle, Michael
Bishop (GA)	Cleaver	F.
Bishop (MI)	Coffman	Duckworth
Bishop (UT)	Cohen	Duffy
Black	Cole	Duncan (SC)
Blackburn	Collins (GA)	Duncan (TN)
Blum	Collins (NY)	Edwards
Blumenauer	Comer	Ellison
Bonamici	Comstock	Emmer (MN)
Bost	Conaway	Engel
Boustany	Connolly	Eshoo
Boyle, Brendan	Conyers	Esty
F.	Cook	Evans
Brady (PA)	Cooper	Farenthold
Brady (TX)	Costa	Farr
Bridenstine	Costello (PA)	Fleischmann
Brooks (AL)	Courtney	Fleming
Brooks (IN)	Cramer	Flores
Brownley (CA)	Crawford	Forbes
Buchanan	Crowley	Fortenberry
Buck	Cuellar	Foster
Bucshon	Culberson	Fox
Burgess	Cummings	Frankel (FL)
Bustos	Curbelo (FL)	Franks (AZ)
Butterfield	Davidson	Frelinghuysen
Byrne	Davis (CA)	Fudge
Calvert	Davis, Danny	Gabbard

Gallego
Garamendi
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal

Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen

Roskam
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swallow (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Mulvaney

Rice (SC)

NOT VOTING—22

Brown (FL)
Clyburn
Crenshaw
Ellmers (NC)
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Garrett
Graves (MO)

Honda
Jolly
Jones
Kirkpatrick
Lee
Miller (MI)
Pittenger
Poe (TX)

Rothfus
Sanchez, Loretta
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Tiberi
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1413

Mr. RICE of South Carolina changed his vote from "yea" to "present."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

AUTHORIZING DIRECTORS OF VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO INVESTIGATE MEDICAL CENTERS

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6435) to authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6435

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF DIRECTORS OF VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS TO INVESTIGATE MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network of the Department of Veterans Affairs may contract with an appropriate entity specializing in civilian accreditation or health care evaluation to investigate any medical center within such Network to assess and report deficiencies of the facilities at such medical center.

(b) COORDINATION.—Before entering into any contract under subsection (a), the Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network shall notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Comptroller General of the United States for purposes of coordinating any investigation conducted pursuant to such contract with any other investigations or accreditations that may be ongoing.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) to prevent the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs from conducting any review, audit, evaluation, or inspection regarding a topic

for which a review is conducted under subsection (a); or

(2) to modify the requirement that employees of the Department assist with any review, audit, evaluation, or inspection conducted by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6435, a bill to authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks, or VISN, of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate VA medical centers.

This bill would allow VISN directors to contract with an appropriate non-VA entity with expertise and civilian accreditation or healthcare evaluation to investigate any medical center within that director's catchment area.

It is no secret that the last few years have been tumultuous for the VA healthcare system, beginning with the access and accountability crisis in Phoenix and across the country in 2014, and continuing to just last week when reports surfaced of potential infectious disease concerns at a troubled VA medical center in Tomah, Wisconsin.

While the committee has an important oversight and investigative responsibility toward VA, as a Federal bureaucracy, VA is all too often charged with policing itself through internal watchdogs like the Office of Medical Inspector and the VA Office of Inspector General. However, despite all of our best efforts, waste, fraud, and abuse still persist and still continue to harm veterans throughout the VA healthcare system.

H.R. 6435 would provide VA regional leadership yet another tool to root out deficiencies within the VA medical facilities while providing VISN directors the ability to work with an experienced, objective entity to assess a given VA medical center's operations and management.

I believe this bill will empower VISN leaders to take a more active role in creating a culture of quality and accountability and lead to the provision of better, safer care to veteran patients.

I am grateful to my friend and colleague Congressman MARKWAYNE

NAYS—8

Amash
Brat
Gosar

Grothman
Harris
Massie

Sanford
Sinema

MULLIN of Oklahoma for sponsoring this legislation, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of this legislation by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Ensuring VA delivers safe and high-quality health care to veterans is an important priority for this committee. This bill will allow Veterans Integrated Service Network directors to contract with civilian accreditation and healthcare evaluation organizations to inspect and investigate VA medical centers. This gives VA another tool to evaluate and improve the quality of care provided at its facilities.

VA medical centers are routinely inspected and accredited by recognized organizations in the healthcare world, such as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. This bill would allow other organizations to inspect and accredit VA hospitals at VA's discretion.

Since the VA inspector general and Government Accountability Office also routinely conduct investigations, inspections, and audits of VA medical facilities, I would like to emphasize that this bill requires both GAO and the IG to be notified when a VISN chooses to contract with civilian inspection and accreditation organizations.

Coordination of efforts with GAO and the IG will avoid duplication and prevent the waste of taxpayer dollars. I also want to emphasize that this authority should not be used to replace the role of the IG and GAO in conducting investigations, inspections, and evaluations of VA medical facilities.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), who brought this legislation to our committee.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman-elect ROE for yielding and for his work on the committee. I have no doubt that he will perform admirably in his new role, and I want to extend my appreciation to him and to Chairman MILLER for their leadership in getting this bill to the floor for consideration.

This bill is simple, so I will keep it short. All the bill does is authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to contract with appropriate civilian healthcare accrediting or evaluating groups to investigate the VA medical centers.

Our veterans deserve care equal to the finest civilian hospitals, so let's allow the VA to invite the people who evaluate and accredit those private hospitals to take a look at our VA medical centers when they have problems.

This is a commonsense bill that will help improve the care of our veterans who need us the most. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this important legislation and to join me in passing H.R. 6435.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. MULLIN said, this is a very commonsense piece of legislation.

I worked in hospitals for almost four decades that had joint commission supervision. It is a good way. It is best for patient safety. With that, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6435.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNITIES HELPING INVEST THROUGH PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5099) to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5099

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016" or the "CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON ACCEPTANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF DONATED FACILITIES AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 8103 and 8104 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary may accept donations of the following property from entities described in paragraph (2):

(A) Real property (including structures and equipment associated therewith)—

(i) that includes a constructed facility; or

(ii) to be used as the site of a facility constructed by the entity.

(B) A facility to be constructed by the entity on real property of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—Entities described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) A State or local authority.

(B) An organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(C) A limited liability corporation.

(D) A private entity.

(E) A donor or donor group.

(F) Any other non-Federal Government entity.

(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may accept not more than five donations of real property and facility improvements under the pilot program and as described in this section.

(b) CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY.—The Secretary may accept the donation of a property described in subsection (a)(1) under the pilot program only if—

(1) the property is—

(A) a property with respect to which funds have been appropriated for a Department facility project; or

(B) a property identified as—

(i) meeting a need of the Department as part of the long-range capital planning process of the Department; and

(ii) the location for a Department facility project that is included on the Strategic Capital Investment Planning process priority list in the most recent budget submitted to Congress by the President pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code; and

(2) an entity described in subsection (a)(2) has entered into or is willing to enter into a formal agreement with the Secretary in accordance with subsection (c) under which the entity agrees to independently donate the real property, improvements, goods, or services, for the Department facility project in an amount acceptable to the Secretary and at no additional cost to the Federal Government.

(c) REQUIREMENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept real property and improvements donated under the pilot program by an entity described in subsection (a)(2) only if the entity enters into a formal agreement with the Secretary that provides for—

(A) the donation of real property and improvements (including structures and equipment associated therewith) that includes a constructed facility; or

(B) the construction by the entity of a facility on—

(i) real property and improvements of the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

(ii) real property and improvements donated to the Department by the entity.

(2) CONTENT OF FORMAL AGREEMENTS.—With respect to an entity described in subsection (a)(2) that seeks to enter into a formal agreement under paragraph (1) of this subsection that includes the construction by the entity of a facility, the formal agreement shall provide for the following:

(A) The entity shall conduct all necessary environmental and historic preservation due diligence, shall comply with all local zoning requirements (except for studies and consultations required of the Department under Federal law), and shall obtain all permits required in connection with the construction of the facility.

(B) The entity shall use construction standards required of the Department when designing, repairing, altering, or building the facility, except to the extent the Secretary determines otherwise, as permitted by applicable law.

(C) The entity shall provide the real property, improvements, goods, or services in a manner described in subsection (b)(2) sufficient to complete the construction of the facility, at no additional cost to the Federal Government.

(d) NO PAYMENT OF RENT OR USAGE FEES.—The Secretary may not pay rent, usage fees, or any other amounts to an entity described in subsection (a)(2) or any other entity for

the use or occupancy of real property or improvements donated under this section.

(e) FUNDING.—

(1) FROM DEPARTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not provide funds to help the entity finance, design, or construct a facility in connection with real property and improvements donated under the pilot program by an entity described in subsection (a)(2) that are in addition to the funds appropriated for the facility as of the date on which the Secretary and the entity enter into a formal agreement under subsection (c) for the donation of the real property and improvements.

(B) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall provide funds pursuant to subparagraph (A) under such terms, conditions, and schedule as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) FROM ENTITY.—An entity described in subsection (a)(2) that is donating a facility constructed by the entity under the pilot program shall be required, pursuant to a formal agreement entered into under subsection (c), to provide other funds in addition to the amounts provided by the Department under paragraph (1) that are needed to complete construction of the facility.

(f) APPLICATION.—An entity described in subsection (a)(2) that seeks to donate real property and improvements under the pilot program shall submit to the Secretary an application to address needs relating to facilities of the Department, including health care needs, identified in the Construction and Long-Range Capital Plan of the Department, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(g) INFORMATION ON DONATIONS AND RELATED PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall include in the budget submitted to Congress by the President pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, information regarding real property and improvements donated under the pilot program during the year preceding the submittal of the budget and the status of facility projects relating to that property.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Information submitted under paragraph (1) shall provide a detailed status of donations of real property and improvements conducted under the pilot program and facility projects relating to that property, including the percentage completion of the donations and projects.

(h) BIENNIAL REPORT OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—Not less frequently than once every two years until the termination date set forth in subsection (i), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the donation agreements entered into under the pilot program.

(i) TERMINATION.—The authority for the Secretary to accept donations under the pilot program shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(j) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as a limitation on the authority of the Secretary to enter into other arrangements or agreements that are authorized by law and not inconsistent with this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5099, as amended, the Communities Helping Invest Through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016—and that is a mouthful—or the CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016. This bill, sponsored by our colleague Congressman BRAD ASHFORD from Nebraska, would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to accept from certain non-Federal entities up to five donations of either real property that includes a constructed facility or is to be used as a site of a facility constructed by the entity, or a facility to be constructed by the entity on VA real property. Such donation may be accepted only if it is for a project for which funds have been appropriated for a VA facility or is identified as meeting both a VA need as part of the Department's long-range capital planning process and as the location for a VA facility project that is included on the strategic capital investment plan.

VA is one of our government's largest real property holders; and, considering that the average age of a VA medical building is five times older than the average age of a building in a nonprofit hospital system, VA's capital needs continue to grow in both cost and complexity. Meanwhile, the high-profile scandals and failures that VA's construction and capital asset program has undergone have been well publicized over the last few years.

In April of 2013, the Government Accountability Office found that VA's major medical facility construction projects, which are already costly, complicated endeavors, experienced cost increases ranging from 66 percent to 427 percent and schedule delays ranging from 14 months to 86 months. Needless to say, it is clear that the time to look for innovative solutions to VA's capital needs is now.

Currently, VA has the authority to accept a donated facility if that facility is already complete; however, it can be challenging to find existing facilities that both meet demonstrated VA need and satisfy all the requirements and mandates that a Federal facility must meet. Allowing VA to accept unconditional donations of real property, improvements, goods, or services from community donors, within certain parameters, could provide a viable solution to meeting VA's capital needs in an expedient, fiscally responsible manner while allowing communities and individuals the opportunity to step up and contribute in honor of their veteran friends and neighbors in a meaningful way.

As chairman in the 115th Congress, I look forward to continuing to aggressively oversee VA's troubled construction program and to leave no stones unturned when looking for new ways to ensure that VA has facilities they need to provide the services our veterans require. I believe that the pilot program could lay the foundation for doing just that.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5099, as amended, Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016. Indeed, it is a mouthful but is a very, very important, potentially transformative piece of legislation. Otherwise, we can shorten it down to the CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016, which was introduced by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska, BRAD ASHFORD. The bill is a testament to his hard work, as well as many Members and staff on both sides of the Capitol, that we are considering this bill today.

This bipartisan legislation will authorize a pilot program, allowing the Department of Veterans Affairs to partner with nonprofit and private donors to build VA hospitals, receive donated land, and acquire other VA facilities so that the VA may continue to serve veterans.

Today there are generous donors and organizations ready to pitch in and invest in their community's willingness to support and serve our veterans. That is why we must take immediate action and pass H.R. 5099, as amended.

This bill will permit the VA to accept facilities constructed by donors, land where a future facility will be constructed by a donor, and permit a donor to construct a facility on VA property under an agreement to donate the facility to VA upon completion. It will also preserve VA's authority to determine need by only allowing projects to move forward under this program based on projects authorized and funded by Congress or included on the VA's strategic capital investment planning process priority list.

This bill is necessary not only because of the Federal Government's significant budget constraints, but also so that VA has clear authority to undertake these projects and accept donations for the acquisition of facilities.

It also allows VA and Congress to determine whether this pilot program that permits the VA and non-Federal organizations to combine resources to construct facilities is a viable future model for the funding and management of major and minor VA construction projects.

Thanks to the public-private partnerships this legislation will foster, the VA will be able to take meaningful steps in improving its capacity to provide our veterans the quality care they

deserve at state-of-the-art VA facilities, all the while saving American taxpayers millions of dollars in the process. It is the very definition of a win-win situation.

Mr. Speaker, strengthening the VA and increasing its capacity to provide and coordinate care is one of our highest priorities at the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I am pleased to support H.R. 5099, as amended, which will only improve VA's ability to do so.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for his comments.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, as we are about to conclude this legislative session, I hope everyone here realizes the magnitude of what this bill before us does.

Yes, we have got a lot going on. We are distracted. We are eager to finish up business and start a transition period. But, as Congressman TAKANO just said, this is transformative. This creates a blueprint of the architecture for a 21st century VA. And why? As Congressman ROE pointed out, we have had extreme difficulties and complexities and problems in the VA with service delivery as well as budgetary cost overruns.

□ 1430

We have had for a very long time an aging hospital in Omaha. We have had a community that is very eager to find a new innovative way out of this problem. We have a pot of money that has been sitting here for a very long time and will continue to sit here for a very long time unless we become innovative, unless we do something different.

That is what Congressman ASHFORD has done with the rest of the Federal delegation from Nebraska, including Senator FISCHER. He has come up with an innovative transformative model that will create a new center of excellence based on a public-private partnership, using existing Federal monies, using a base of community support that has already come forward looking to help the VA better integrate with the private facilities that already exist in the community of Omaha, which are quite extraordinary. As Congressman TAKANO said, this is a win-win-win.

I want to congratulate my friend and colleague, Congressman ASHFORD, for his extraordinary leadership and vision in this regard as well as the integrity to stay with it until the very end. We have had some complexities along the way, but it is my hope, Mr. Chairman, particularly as you take over the reins of the entire committee, that you will help us implement this rapidly, as I know you will, because it is a transformative mechanism by which we are going to deliver the highest and best possible care for our veterans back home.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD), who had the te-

nacity to stick it through and bring this legislation finally in this form to the floor.

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member TAKANO, Chairman ROE, certainly Chairman MILLER, and Mr. Speaker for bringing this important bill up for a vote today.

H.R. 5099, the CHIP IN for Vets Act, was introduced by myself and others in the House and by my good friend and colleague, Senator DEB FISCHER, in the United States Senate. There is an identical bill in the Senate awaiting action as we speak.

As has been suggested and mentioned, this bill allows for the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into donation agreements with community groups in order to complete VA construction projects. This is a new and innovative idea not necessarily brought to this body by myself, but by so many other people, as has been mentioned, who have worked on this bill for literally 2 years. I appreciate my good friend, Congressman FORTENBERRY from Lincoln, Nebraska, for his comments and his ability to hold me back from time to time as we proceeded down this course.

I think when we started out with this process, what I was focused on was the idea that in our own communities it is veterans who can make those tough decisions as to what their needs are. Nobody better than our veterans understands those needs. What this bill will allow us to do is to combine community donors with veterans to actually involve themselves together in the development of these projects. Certainly in Omaha, in my community in Iowa, and Nebraska area, we have had a need for such a renovated facility for many, many years.

My bill, I believe, empowers our veterans. It puts an end to the decades-long wait for hundreds of thousands of veterans in my area who have been promised new facilities. I think, as clearly as Congressman FORTENBERRY, Ranking Member TAKANO, and Chairman ROE mentioned, that this really does open up opportunities for VA facilities across the entire country and starts the course moving forward.

Let me just conclude by thanking so many of you. I would be here much longer than 5 minutes if I were going to name everyone, but certainly I appreciate my cosponsors, Congressman WALZ from Minnesota, Congressman FORTENBERRY, Congressman SMITH from Nebraska, Congressman DAVE YOUNG from across the river in Iowa.

I thank Chairman MILLER, who gave me the opportunity to discuss, even on weekends, some of the positive elements of what we were trying to do in Nebraska.

Lastly, thanks to the staff and certainly my staff leader on this bill, Denise Fleming. I am going to be in the House only a few more weeks, but I can't say that she is actually welcoming me leaving, but she certainly has been a tenacious advocate and has worked very, very hard.

There have been other staff members as well, and certainly they have all added a tremendous amount to this bill: Christine Hill and Grace Rodden most particularly.

Moving this bill ensures that Senator FISCHER's bill, which is now in the Senate, can move in the Senate and become law so we can begin this project now. My friends in Omaha, in Nebraska, and Iowa are ready to donate what is necessary to unleash, as Mr. FORTENBERRY suggests, the money that has already been appropriated for our Omaha facility.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Secretary of the Veterans Administration, Robert McDonald. I met Bob McDonald 2 years ago about just now when I was coming in to Congress. I suggested to him that we needed something to be done in Omaha, and I also suggested that I thought that our donor community and our veterans community would work together on an innovative public-private partnership to enable some sort of new way, some sort of center of excellence to develop; and certainly Secretary McDonald and his team have been great and have been so incredibly helpful in moving this along.

Lastly, again, I thank my colleague and friend actually from our years together in the unicameral legislature in Nebraska, DEB FISCHER, whose staff has been tireless and helpful in this matter.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG), my good friend, to speak on this issue.

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in support of H.R. 5099, the bipartisan CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016, which is sponsored by my colleague from across the river, Congressman BRAD ASHFORD in Nebraska.

Our veterans make great sacrifices in defense of our freedoms, and it is incumbent upon us to provide them with the best possible health care when they return home.

Now, many of our Department of Veterans Affairs facilities are aging. They are in need of upgrades and repair, some complete overhauls, yet cost overruns and significant delays trouble VA construction programs and hinder work on other VA facilities in need of improvements.

The CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016 seeks to address some of these problems by authorizing the VA to carry out a 5-year pilot program examining the feasibility of leveraging private donations to construct new VA facilities, that public-private partnership.

This is a new way of doing things and a unique opportunity for the taxpayer and for veterans. This bill could help facilities—and it will—like the Omaha VA Medical Center, which serve my constituents in Iowa as well as those in Nebraska.

Now, I appreciate my colleague's work, Congressman ASHFORD, for pushing this bill along. I was proud to sign

on as a cosponsor. Congressman ASHFORD has shown great leadership and tenacity in getting this bill over the finish line. That is what he came here to do, to get things done.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to add some more comments about the legislation that we are about to pass. I concur in and associate myself with the remarks of my colleague from Nebraska, Mr. FORTENBERRY. I certainly want to extend my appreciation to the majority for its generosity of spirit in this particular case. If there is anything that fills me with great hope that we can restore the esteem of this great institution in the eyes of the American people, it is when we pass legislation such as Mr. ASHFORD's bill today. We rose above politics—both sides rose above politics—to do the right thing for veterans. It was our regard for veterans that brought us together. It is fitting that this action is happening in the heartland of our country. This is no small measure today. The American people do not really see the drama. It looks very effortless about what we are going to do because it is going to be voice voted. No real big drama is going to play out in front of everybody, but I am going to tell you that Republicans and Democrats worked together.

I want to congratulate and show my appreciation to my whip, Mr. HOYER. He worked his relationships with some Members on the other side in the Senate, and it showed that we shouldn't be so hasty to move our more senior Members so quickly out of their positions because these relationships matter after so many years. I will go more into detail with anyone who cares to know more about it later. Mr. MCCARTHY, of my home State of California, my own Leader PELOSI, and staff on both sides of the aisle worked tirelessly to bring this bill.

We are about to head home for the holiday season, and I can't think of a greater gift that we can give—well, I can think of a lot of greater gifts, but this is a very important gift that we are going to give. It is truly a potentially transformative piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time. I just want to encourage all of my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation and join me in passing H.R. 5099, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I, too, want to associate myself with the remarks of all the speakers and thank Mr. ASHFORD for his perseverance in bringing this, along with Mr. FORTENBERRY on our side and Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member TAKANO. This is the way we are going to have to do this more. There is a finite amount of money we have. There

is a finite amount of money we can provide for services, and looking for public-private partnerships, as my city in Johnson City, Tennessee, is doing right now with other projects. I think this is a model for what could go on in the country.

I have a CBOC in my district where the local mayor provided use at a hospital for a dollar a year for the VA to have the VA facility there. I think that is going on in Nebraska right now. They are trying to see that happen. We need to be thinking about how we can provide these facilities to serve these great veterans who have served our country.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5099, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1445

TO RESEARCH, EVALUATE, ASSESS, AND TREAT ASTRONAUTS ACT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6076) to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of astronauts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6076

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act” or the “TREAT Astronauts Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Human space exploration can pose significant challenges and is full of substantial risk, which has ultimately claimed the lives of 24 National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronauts serving in the line of duty.

(2) As United States government astronauts participate in long-duration and exploration spaceflight missions they may experience increased health risks, such as vision impairment, bone demineralization, and behavioral health and performance risks, and may be exposed to galactic cosmic radiation. Exposure to high levels of radiation and microgravity can result in acute and long-term health consequences that can increase the risk of cancer and tissue degeneration and have potential effects on the musculoskeletal system, central nervous system, cardiovascular system, immune function, and vision.

(3) To advance the goal of long-duration and exploration spaceflight missions, United States government astronaut Scott Kelly participated in a one-year twins study in space while his identical twin brother, former United States government astronaut Mark Kelly, acted as a human control specimen on Earth, providing an understanding of the physical, behavioral, microbiological, and molecular reaction of the human body to an extended period of time in space.

(4) Since the Administration currently provides medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment for United States government astronauts during their active employment, given the unknown long-term health consequences of long-duration space exploration, the Administration has requested statutory authority from Congress to provide medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment to former United States government astronauts for psychological and medical conditions associated with human space flight.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to seek the unknown and lead the world in space exploration and scientific discovery as the Administration prepares for long-duration and exploration spaceflight in deep space and an eventual mission to Mars;

(2) data relating to the health of astronauts will become increasingly valuable to improving our understanding of many diseases humans face on Earth;

(3) the Administration should provide the type of monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment described in subsection (a) only for conditions the Administration considers unique to the training or exposure to the spaceflight environment of United States government astronauts and should not require any former United States government astronauts to participate in the Administration's monitoring;

(4) such monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment should not replace a former United States government astronaut's private health insurance;

(5) expanded data acquired from such monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment should be used to tailor treatment, inform the requirements for new spaceflight medical hardware, and develop controls in order to prevent disease occurrence in the astronaut corps; and

(6) the 340-day space mission of Scott Kelly aboard the ISS—

(A) was pivotal for the goal of the United States for humans to explore deep space and Mars as the mission generated new insight into how the human body adjusts to weightlessness, isolation, radiation, and the stress of long-duration space flight; and

(B) will help support the physical and mental well-being of astronauts during longer space exploration missions in the future.

SEC. 3. MEDICAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH RELATING TO HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 20148. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may provide for the medical monitoring and diagnosis of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist for conditions that the Administrator considers potentially associated with human space flight, and may provide for the treatment of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist for conditions that the Administrator considers

associated with human space flight, including scientific and medical tests for psychological and medical conditions.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) NO COST SHARING.—The medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment described in subsection (a) shall be provided without any deductible, copayment, or other cost sharing obligation.

“(2) ACCESS TO LOCAL SERVICES.—The medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment described in subsection (a) may be provided by a local health care provider if it is unavoidable due to the health of the applicable former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist for that former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist to travel to the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, as determined by the Administrator.

“(3) SECONDARY PAYMENT.—Payment or reimbursement for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment described in subsection (a) shall be secondary to any obligation of the United States government or any third party under any other provision of law or contractual agreement to pay for or provide such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment. Any costs for items and services that may be provided by the Administrator for medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a) that are not paid for or provided under such other provision of law or contractual agreement, due to the application of deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, other cost sharing, or otherwise, are reimbursable by the Administrator on behalf of the former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist involved to the extent such items or services are authorized to be provided by the Administrator for such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a).

“(4) CONDITIONAL PAYMENT.—The Administrator may provide for conditional payments for or provide medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment described in subsection (a) that is obligated to be paid for or provided by the United States or any third party under any other provision of law or contractual agreement to pay for or provide such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment if—

“(A) payment for (or the provision of) such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment services has not been made (or provided) or cannot reasonably be expected to be made (or provided) promptly by the United States or such third party, respectively; and

“(B) such payment (or such provision of services) by the Administrator is conditioned on reimbursement by the United States or such third party, respectively, for such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment.

“(c) EXCLUSIONS.—The Administrator may not—

“(1) provide for medical monitoring or diagnosis of a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist under subsection (a) for any psychological or medical condition that is not potentially associated with human space flight;

“(2) provide for treatment of a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist under subsection (a) for any psychological or medical condition that is not associated with human space flight; or

“(3) require a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist to participate in the medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment authorized under subsection (a).

“(d) PRIVACY.—Consistent with applicable provisions of Federal law relating to privacy, the Administrator shall protect the privacy of all medical records generated under subsection (a) and accessible to the Administration.

“(e) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

“(f) DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.—In this section, the term ‘United States government astronaut’ has the meaning given the term ‘government astronaut’ in section 50902, except it does not include an individual who is an international partner astronaut.

“(g) DATA USE AND DISCLOSURE.—The Administrator may use or disclose data acquired in the course of medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist under subsection (a), in accordance with subsection (d). Former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist participation in medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a) shall constitute consent for the Administrator to use or disclose such data.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 20147 the following:

“20148. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight”.

(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, not later than the date of submission of the President's annual budget request for that fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall publish a report, in accordance with applicable Federal privacy laws, on the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed cost accounting of the Administration's activities under such section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, and a 5-year budget estimate.

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress each report under paragraph (1) not later than the date of submission of the President's annual budget request for that fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(d) COST ESTIMATE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall enter into an arrangement with an independent external organization to undertake an independent cost estimate of the cost to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Federal Government to implement and administer the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, as added by subsection (a). The independent external organization may not be an entity of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, such as the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance.

(2) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit the independent cost estimate undertaken pursuant to paragraph (1) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(e) PRIVACY STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall carry out a study on any potential privacy or legal issues related to the possible

sharing beyond the Federal Government of data acquired under the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the results of the study carried out under paragraph (1).

(f) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.—The Inspector General of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall periodically audit or review, as the Inspector General considers necessary to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6076, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, for over 50 years, the United States of America has asked its bravest to travel to space in service of their country. From the dynamic launch environment to the unforgiving vacuum of space, to the energetic reentry of Earth, human spaceflight places astronauts in challenging environments. Even training for spaceflight carries significant risks. I am very proud to say that I represent a great number of these astronauts who call Houston their home.

As a nation, we have an obligation to those whom we put in harm's way. As a Congress, we have a responsibility to provide for the treatment of conditions caused by Federal service. As a healthcare professional myself, and as their Representative, you can say it is my duty to make sure that these folks are taken care of properly. This is why I have sponsored H.R. 6076, the TREAT Astronauts Act, a very commonsense, fiscally responsible, bipartisan bill that makes sure that our brave men and women who venture into space receive the support for medical issues associated with their service.

The psychological and medical data associated with an astronaut's human spaceflight service is very important for our future space endeavors. The TREAT Astronauts Act will provide this additional data and will enable NASA to better understand the medical risks of spaceflight, minimize

these risks, and enable future long-duration missions to Mars and even beyond.

I am very thankful to Chairman LAMAR SMITH for his support of the TREAT Astronauts Act and for his leadership as chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I am also very glad that my colleague, Ms. EDWARDS, is an original cosponsor and that the bill was reported out of committee by a voice vote with broad bipartisan support.

The amendment before us today represents compromise language agreed upon with the Senate in good faith that this language will be included and passed in a NASA Authorization Act before the 114th Congress recesses. The program established under this compromise language is very similar to the program that passed out of the committee.

In developing this bill, my staff and I had extensive discussions with former astronauts, NASA, and a number of other Federal agencies. The TREAT Astronauts Act is also informed by a hearing the Space Subcommittee held back in June, at which a number of former astronauts testified, including Captain Scott Kelly, who spent a year on the International Space Station.

Under existing statutes, NASA has the authority to collect voluntary astronaut medical data for research. It exercises that authority through the Lifetime Surveillance of Astronaut Health program, or LSAH. However, there are limitations on the usefulness of the LSAH program. Former astronaut participation is only 61 percent and the existing LSAH program only affords NASA access to yearly checkup data, not the entirety of the former astronauts' medical records.

Furthermore, NASA is unable to provide for the appropriate diagnosis and treatment under the existing authority to conduct research. The TREAT Astronauts Act solves this problem by supplementing existing authorities.

Congress would be remiss not to ensure that the TREAT Astronauts Act is fiscally responsible. The TREAT Astronauts Act is not a mandate and is subject to existing discretionary appropriations.

In order to address cost risks, the bill establishes NASA as a secondary payer to existing obligations of the United States or third parties, ensuring that the cost to NASA is minimal. Establishing NASA as a secondary payer is not unprecedented. For example, the Department of Defense is a secondary payer to veteran and civilian healthcare programs.

Allow me to make this clear for the record. Although NASA is a secondary payer, the TREAT Astronauts Act provides that no participating former astronaut or payload specialist will have to pay for anything out of pocket, including deductibles and copayments associated with the primary payer.

There are a number of reporting requirements, including an independent

cost estimate and an annual fiscal report. These reports will ensure that Congress is well informed and able to conduct appropriate oversight.

Participation in the program is voluntary. No astronaut should be forced or coerced to participate in this program. In the event that an astronaut chooses not to participate in the program, there are still other occupational healthcare options available to them. But if they do participate, the astronauts have consented that NASA can use and disclose the data they collect, subject to protecting their personally identifiable health information.

In conclusion, I strongly support the TREAT Astronauts Act, and I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense, fiscally responsible, bipartisan bill that makes sure that our brave men and women who venture into space receive the support for medical issues associated with their service.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6076, as amended, the TREAT Astronauts Act.

The House-passed, bipartisan NASA Authorization Act of 2015 set the long-term goal of sending humans to the surface of Mars. The amendments to the TREAT Astronauts Act being considered today will help provide the research results needed to achieve this goal. As Chairman BABIN noted, the amendment reflects compromise language agreed upon with the Senate in good faith.

Committee Ranking Member JOHNSON and I thank Space Subcommittee Chairman BABIN and his staff for working together to achieve bipartisan and bicameral consensus on this amendment.

Chairman BABIN and I both want to do the right thing for the health of our current and future astronauts. That is why I was pleased to be a cosponsor of this act to provide for monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of former astronauts.

Our astronauts are heroes. They serve this Nation in the face of extreme risks. Some of those risks involve the potential for medical conditions that may not reveal themselves for years or even decades after an astronaut's service.

It is our responsibility to ensure that we, as a nation, acknowledge the risks that these heroes have taken and, in return, provide our astronauts with the medical monitoring and treatment they need.

It is also our responsibility to mitigate the risks for future NASA explorers, especially as we put in place the systems and missions to prepare the way for human exploration to Mars. Such risk mitigation requires data about astronauts' mental and psychological health.

H.R. 6076, as amended, maintains the three principles I identified as critical to this legislation in the original bill.

The first principle is getting care to former astronauts under this program as soon as possible. NASA has indicated that some former astronauts could already benefit from this new authority.

As Chairman BABIN noted, this bill provides NASA with supplementary authority. As such, I would expect that monitoring provided by NASA's Lifetime Surveillance of Astronaut Health program will continue to be made available to any former astronaut or payload specialist electing not to participate in the program being established by this legislation.

The second principle is being respectful of astronaut rights and privacy. As we expand the amount of data collected on former astronaut health, it is important that we place a priority on ensuring the privacy of the data. NASA is tasked to report on how the agency will ensure the privacy of astronauts in the program when data is shared beyond the Federal Government.

The third principle is ensuring that the program is in sync with the goal of sending humans to Mars. Expanded data acquired from the monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of former astronauts and former shuttle payload specialists will be invaluable for informing the requirements for new spaceflight medical hardware and developing controls to prevent disease occurrence in the astronaut corps.

Mr. Speaker, it is also my hope that Congress and the administration will enable NASA to get to Mars sooner rather than later. As part of that effort, we must establish the safeguards that will get our astronauts there and back safely. Supporting this bill will allow us to stay on that vector.

I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas, the author of this bill, for yielding. I also want to say that Congressman BRIAN BABIN is an excellent chairman of the Space Subcommittee of the full Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. Speaker, since NASA selected the first group of astronauts in 1959, more than 300 brave American astronauts have ventured into the cosmos as explorers. In an age when spaceflight has come to seem almost routine, it is easy to overlook how dangerous it is and how little we know about its long-term health effects.

H.R. 6076, the TREAT Astronauts Act, ensures that our courageous men and women who venture into space receive support for medical issues associated with their service.

The TREAT Astronauts Act also will help us better understand the medical science of human spaceflight, enabling

next generation of explorers to literally go where no man has gone before. I should say where no man or woman has gone before.

The TREAT Astronauts Act builds upon NASA's existing Lifetime Surveillance of Astronaut Health program and will operate within existing NASA resources. It provides for enhanced monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions associated with spaceflight service.

I thank Space Subcommittee Chairman BRIAN BABIN again for introducing this legislation and for his persistence in getting us to the point of passage. We wouldn't be here today without him.

I urge my colleagues to support the TREAT Astronauts Act.

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take a moment to thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS), who is a friend and has been the ranking member of the Space Subcommittee for the last 2 years, for her outstanding service to Congress and for being a wonderful contributor to the Science Committee as a whole, and in particular the Space Subcommittee. To almost any subject, she always brings enthusiasm, knowledge, and in this case, an almost unequal dedication to space exploration, which we will continue to appreciate both now and in the future. I just thank her again for, as I said, her many contributions to the committee and the subcommittee and say that I hope she stays in touch with us. She will always be a friend of the committee and many members of this side of the aisle.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with Chairman SMITH that I am so grateful for his remarks today on the floor. He beat me to the punch, but it has been a pleasure both to work on the committee since the beginning of my time here in the Congress. It is the most fun I think that I have ever had, and I have truly enjoyed the collegial working relationship and friendship that we have shared on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6076, as amended, To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act, or the TREAT Astronauts Act.

Long-duration exposure to microgravity and space radiation can lead to chronic health effects such as muscle atrophy, bone loss, permanent vision impairment, and cancer. However, there is much we still need to understand regarding how the space environment relates to these effects and other critical biological functions, such as immunity and tissue healing, so that appropriate countermeasures can be developed.

□ 1500

This bill, as amended, would provide NASA with the statutory authority to

perform monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment for former astronauts for medical or psychological conditions associated with human spaceflight.

Through this authorization, NASA would be able to acquire data from a larger set of participants, and the data acquired on former astronauts would be more comprehensive.

This bill, as amended, reflects several changes that strengthen and improve the bipartisan bill that passed out of committee in September. In particular, the provision that would sunset the monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment program for former astronauts after 10 years has been removed.

In addition, the current version of the bill removes a provision that would have denied a fiscal year's authorization of appropriations for the program if NASA did not submit an annual report on time.

Mr. Speaker, NASA's astronauts are some of the most accomplished, highly trained, and courageous individuals who serve our Nation in the pursuit of furthering our exploration of outer space. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their willingness to risk their health and their lives in the furtherance of space exploration. I would urge all of the House Members to vote for and pass H.R. 6076, as amended.

I too want to join the chairman to express my appreciation and thanks for the services of Congresswoman DONNA EDWARDS for her leadership in bringing this measure to this point and to her overall leadership as subcommittee ranking member of the Space Subcommittee. She has made many efforts, has led the committee with much understanding, and we certainly will miss her.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join us in this bipartisan effort to make sure that we can get signed into law the TREAT Act for our current, former, and future astronauts.

I would like to close by expressing my gratitude to Chairman LAMAR SMITH, to Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, and to our Subcommittee Chair BABIN for their graciousness and for their leadership. It has truly been a joy to work on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. It is one of the few places in the United States House of Representatives where our charge is really to think about the future, and it is in this spirit that this legislation is in front of us today.

I hadn't anticipated, Mr. Speaker, that I would have a moment on the floor of the House, my last moment on the floor of the House before I depart my service to the United States House of Representatives, but I am grateful for that.

As I reflect on the last 8½ years, it has really been a pleasure, particu-

larly, to work on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and to do that in what seems like a contentious environment sometimes but has been a lot of collegiality.

As I close my service in the Congress, I am, Mr. Speaker, reminded that, as a little girl, I used to picnic with my father and my mother and my siblings on the west front of the Capitol. My dad was in his Air Force uniform, prepared to go back to work after we had had our little picnic.

As little girls, we would run around to the east front of the Capitol, Mr. Speaker, and climb the steps, when you could climb the steps. And we would sit there in between my father and look out on the United States Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.

I never would have imagined, Mr. Speaker, that I would have an opportunity to serve in the House of Representatives; and it has been a great privilege and a joy to represent the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland.

I wish for my colleagues here in the Congress that, as we approach the 115th Congress, and in the spirit of service to this great Nation, that we work together in service to the Nation.

When we come to work every day, Mr. Speaker, people think about things that are big and small; but for a lot of people out there, a lot of our constituents, it is about their health and their life, their safety and their security, the ability of them to raise their children, and to move forward. And I wish that, in the upcoming Congress, that we have an opportunity to do those things together, and that you do.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the staff of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and the Space Subcommittee, Allen Li, Pam Whitney, Dick Obermann; Anne Nelson on the minority staff, and the majority staff for all of their work; to the people who serve in this institution and serve us tremendously, from the Parliamentarians to the stenographers and the Clerk's staff, and the Marshals Service and the Capitol Police, and all of it, because it makes the trains run, and it means that we can get the job done of the people of the United States.

God bless the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to thank our full committee chairman, LAMAR SMITH; our ranking subcommittee member, Ms. EDWARDS from Maryland; and also our ranking member of the full committee, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON from Texas as well.

I would also like to thank my staff and the staff of the full committee, as well as the subcommittee, who have worked so hard to make this bill happen. It was so badly needed for our astronauts.

Mr. Speaker, I include a letter from the American Association of Space Explorers into the RECORD. This is signed

by the president of the American Association of Space Explorers, astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria.

ASSOCIATION OF SPACE
EXPLORERS—USA,
Webster, TX, 7 December 2016.

Hon. BRIAN BABIN,
Chair, Subcommittee on Space, House Committee
on Science, Space and Technology, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BABIN: I am writing on be-
half of the U.S. chapter of the international
Association of Space Explorers (ASE-USA)
to strongly endorse H.R. 6076, the “To Re-
search, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astro-
nauts” (TREAT) Act, that is under consider-
ation by the House of Representatives.

Our organization counts over 210 American
current and former flown astronauts as its
members. Our mission is to provide a forum
for professional dialogue among individuals
who have flown in space, to promote edu-
cation in science and mathematics and in-
spire in students a lifelong commitment to
learning, to foster environmental awareness
and encourage planetary stewardship, to pro-
mote the benefits of space science and explo-
ration and to advocate for international co-
operation and operational compatibility in
current and future space exploration endeav-
ors.

We in the astronaut community applaud
your Committee for recognizing the risks in-
herent in traveling to and exploring space,
and for ensuring that the men and women
who do so on behalf of our nation receive
support for medical issues associated with
their service.

I urge the House to pass the TREAT Act so
that my colleagues and future generations of
Americans can continue to explore and ex-
pand the frontiers of space and human
knowledge, and can return home to Earth
suitably protected from the potential med-
ical consequences of those endeavors on be-
half of the United States.

Sincerely,
MICHAEL LOPEZ-ALEGRIA,
President.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back
the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr.
DUNCAN of Tennessee). The question is
on the motion offered by the gen-
tleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that
the House suspend the rules and pass
the bill, H.R. 6076, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the
opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being
in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, on that I
demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant
to clause 8 of rule XX, further pro-
ceedings on this motion will be post-
poned.

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM ACT OF 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move
to suspend the rules and pass the bill
(S. 2971) to authorize the National
Urban Search and Rescue Response
System, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2971

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National
Urban Search and Rescue Response System
Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Robert T.
Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.) is amend-
ed by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 327. NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RES- CUE RESPONSE SYSTEM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the fol-
lowing definitions shall apply:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-
trator’ means the Administrator of the Fed-
eral Emergency Management Agency.

“(2) AGENCY.—The term ‘Agency’ means
the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
cy.

“(3) HAZARD.—The term ‘hazard’ has the
meaning given the term in section 602.

“(4) NONEMPLOYEE SYSTEM MEMBER.—The
term ‘nonemployee System member’ means
a System member not employed by a spon-
soring agency or participating agency.

“(5) PARTICIPATING AGENCY.—The term
‘participating agency’ means a State or local
government, nonprofit organization, or pri-
vate organization that has executed an
agreement with a sponsoring agency to par-
ticipate in the System.

“(6) SPONSORING AGENCY.—The term ‘spon-
soring agency’ means a State or local gov-
ernment that is the sponsor of a task force
designated by the Administrator to partici-
pate in the System.

“(7) SYSTEM.—The term ‘System’ means
the National Urban Search and Rescue Re-
sponse System to be administered under this
section.

“(8) SYSTEM MEMBER.—The term ‘System
member’ means an individual who is not a
full-time employee of the Federal Govern-
ment and who serves on a task force or on a
System management or other technical
team.

“(9) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘task force’
means an urban search and rescue team de-
signed by the Administrator to participate
in the System.

“(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Subject to the
requirements of this section, the Adminis-
trator shall continue to administer the
emergency response system known as the
National Urban Search and Rescue Response
System.

“(c) FUNCTIONS.—In administering the Sys-
tem, the Administrator shall provide for a
national network of standardized search and
rescue resources to assist States and local
governments in responding to hazards.

“(d) TASK FORCES.—

“(1) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator
shall designate task forces to participate in
the System. The Administration shall deter-
mine the criteria for such participation.

“(2) SPONSORING AGENCIES.—Each task
force shall have a sponsoring agency. The
Administrator shall enter into an agreement
with the sponsoring agency with respect to
the participation of each task force in the
System.

“(3) COMPOSITION.—

“(A) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—A task
force may include, at the discretion of the
sponsoring agency, 1 or more participating
agencies. The sponsoring agency shall enter
into an agreement with each participating
agency with respect to the participation of
the participating agency on the task force.

“(B) OTHER INDIVIDUALS.—A task force may
also include, at the discretion of the spon-
soring agency, other individuals not other-
wise associated with the sponsoring agency
or a participating agency. The sponsoring
agency of a task force may enter into a sepa-

rate agreement with each such individual
with respect to the participation of the indi-
vidual on the task force.

“(e) MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL TEAMS.—
The Administrator shall maintain such man-
agement teams and other technical teams as
the Administrator determines are necessary
to administer the System.

“(f) APPOINTMENT OF SYSTEM MEMBERS
INTO FEDERAL SERVICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may
appoint a System member into Federal ser-
vice for a period of service to provide for the
participation of the System member in exer-
cises, preincident staging, major disaster and
emergency response activities, and training
events sponsored or sanctioned by the Ad-
ministrator.

“(2) NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL
SERVICE LAWS.—The Administrator may
make appointments under paragraph (1)
without regard to the provisions of title 5,
United States Code, governing appointments
in the competitive service.

“(3) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.—
The authority of the Administrator to make
appointments under this subsection shall not
affect any other authority of the Adminis-
trator under this Act.

“(4) LIMITATION.—A System member who is
appointed into Federal service under para-
graph (1) shall not be considered an employee
of the United States for purposes other than
those specifically set forth in this section.

“(g) COMPENSATION.—

“(1) PAY OF SYSTEM MEMBERS.—Subject to
such terms and conditions as the Adminis-
trator may impose by regulation, the Admin-
istrator shall make payments to the spon-
soring agency of a task force—

“(A) to reimburse each employer of a Sys-
tem member on the task force for compensa-
tion paid by the employer to the System
member for any period during which the Sys-
tem member is appointed into Federal ser-
vice under subsection (f)(1); and

“(B) to make payments directly to a non-
employee System member on the task force
for any period during which the nonemployee
System member is appointed into Federal
service under subsection (f)(1).

“(2) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES FILL-
ING POSITIONS OF SYSTEM MEMBERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to such terms
and conditions as the Administrator may im-
pose by regulation, the Administrator shall
make payments to the sponsoring agency of
a task force to be used to reimburse each em-
ployer of a System member on the task force
for compensation paid by the employer to an
employee filling a position normally filled
by the System member for any period during
which the System member is appointed into
Federal service under subsection (f)(1).

“(B) LIMITATION.—Costs incurred by an em-
ployer shall be eligible for reimbursement
under subparagraph (A) only to the extent
that the costs are in excess of the costs that
would have been incurred by the employer
had the System member not been appointed
into Federal service under subsection (f)(1).

“(3) METHOD OF PAYMENT.—A System mem-
ber shall not be entitled to pay directly from
the Agency for a period during which the
System member is appointed into Federal
Service under subsection (f)(1).

“(h) PERSONAL INJURY, ILLNESS, DIS-
ABILITY, OR DEATH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A System member who is
appointed into Federal service under sub-
section (f)(1) and who suffers personal injury,
illness, disability, or death as a result of a
personal injury sustained while acting in the
scope of such appointment, shall, for the pur-
poses of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5,
United States Code, be treated as though the

member were an employee (as defined by section 8101 of that title) who had sustained the injury in the performance of duty.

“(2) ELECTION OF BENEFITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A System member (or, in the case of the death of the System member, the System member’s dependent) who is entitled under paragraph (1) to receive benefits under subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, by reason of personal injury, illness, disability, or death, and to receive benefits from a State or local government by reason of the same personal injury, illness, disability or death shall elect to—

“(i) receive benefits under such subchapter; or

“(ii) receive benefits from the State or local government.

“(B) DEADLINE.—A System member or dependent shall make an election of benefits under subparagraph (A) not later than 1 year after the date of the personal injury, illness, disability, or death that is the reason for the benefits, or until such later date as the Secretary of Labor may allow for reasonable cause shown.

“(C) EFFECT OF ELECTION.—An election of benefits made under this paragraph is irrevocable unless otherwise provided by law.

“(3) REIMBURSEMENT FOR STATE OR LOCAL BENEFITS.—Subject to such terms and conditions as the Administrator may impose by regulation, if a System member or dependent elects to receive benefits from a State or local government under paragraph (2)(A), the Administrator shall reimburse the State or local government for the value of the benefits.

“(4) PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER CLAIMS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to bar any claim by, or with respect to, any System member who is a public safety officer, as defined in section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b), for any benefits authorized under part L of title I of that Act (42 U.S.C. 3796 et seq.).

“(i) LIABILITY.—A System member appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1), while acting within the scope of the appointment, shall be considered to be an employee of the Federal Government under section 1346(b) of title 28, United States Code, and chapter 171 of that title, relating to tort claims procedure.

“(j) EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS.—With respect to a System member who is not a regular full-time employee of a sponsoring agency or participating agency, the following terms and conditions apply:

“(1) SERVICE.—Service as a System member shall be considered to be ‘service in the uniformed services’ for purposes of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, relating to employment and reemployment rights of individuals who have performed service in the uniformed services (regardless of whether the individual receives compensation for such participation). All rights and obligations of such persons and procedures for assistance, enforcement, and investigation shall be as provided for in such chapter.

“(2) PRECLUSION.—Preclusion of giving notice of service by necessity of appointment under this section shall be considered to be preclusion by ‘military necessity’ for purposes of section 4312(b) of title 38, United States Code, pertaining to giving notice of absence from a position of employment. A determination of such necessity shall be made by the Administrator and shall not be subject to judicial review.

“(k) LICENSES AND PERMITS.—If a System member holds a valid license, certificate, or other permit issued by any State or other governmental jurisdiction evidencing the member’s qualifications in any professional, mechanical, or other skill or type of assist-

ance required by the System, the System member is deemed to be performing a Federal activity when rendering aid involving such skill or assistance during a period of appointment into Federal service under subsection (f)(1).

“(1) PREPAREDNESS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, the Administrator shall enter into an annual preparedness cooperative agreement with each sponsoring agency. Amounts made available to a sponsoring agency under such a preparedness cooperative agreement shall be for the following purposes:

“(1) Training and exercises, including training and exercises with other Federal, State, and local government response entities.

“(2) Acquisition and maintenance of equipment, including interoperable communications and personal protective equipment.

“(3) Medical monitoring required for responder safety and health in anticipation of and following a major disaster, emergency, or other hazard, as determined by the Administrator.

“(m) RESPONSE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator shall enter into a response cooperative agreement with each sponsoring agency, as appropriate, under which the Administrator agrees to reimburse the sponsoring agency for costs incurred by the sponsoring agency in responding to a major disaster or emergency.

“(n) OBLIGATIONS.—The Administrator may incur all necessary obligations consistent with this section in order to ensure the effectiveness of the System.

“(o) EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101)) a report on the development of a plan, including implementation steps and timeframes, to finance, maintain, and replace System equipment.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) APPLICABILITY OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 8101(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by transferring subparagraph (F) to between subparagraph (E) and the matter following subparagraph (E);

(C) in subparagraph (F)—

(i) by striking “United States Code,”; and

(ii) by adding “and” at the end; and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) an individual who is a System member of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System during a period of appointment into Federal service pursuant to section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act;”.

(2) INCLUSION AS PART OF UNIFORMED SERVICES FOR PURPOSES OF USERRA.—Section 4303 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (13), by inserting “, a period for which a System member of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System is absent from a position of employment due to an appointment into Federal service under section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act” before “, and a period”; and

(B) in paragraph (16), by inserting “System members of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System during a period of appointment into Federal service under section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act,” after “Public Health Service.”.

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1086(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act

for Fiscal Year 2013 is amended as follows (which amendments shall take effect as if enacted on January 2, 2013)—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “paragraph (2)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking “filed or” and inserting “filed (consistent with pre-existing effective dates) or”;

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “amendments made by this Act” and inserting “amendments made to section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b) by this Act”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2971, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking Chairman SHUSTER for his tremendous support and leadership on this issue. For over 8 years, the bipartisan leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has been the driving force behind trying to get these reforms through Congress, and, today, we are closer than ever.

I also want to thank Ranking Member DEFazio and Ranking Member CARSON for their bipartisan support.

The House unanimously passed a nearly identical measure earlier this year as part of the FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act, H.R. 1471.

Today, when members of the search and rescue teams are federalized and sent across State lines, they don’t know who, if anyone, will pay for their injuries, disabilities, or death. So S. 2971 addresses that issue and clarifies that longstanding concern which has hindered the deployment of critical search and rescue teams between States.

Currently, there are 28 USAR teams across the Nation. Members of these teams are cross-trained in areas such as search, rescue, medical, hazardous materials, and logistics. The teams include firefighters, physicians, structural engineers, and first responders, and they are trained and equipped with help from FEMA. While the members of these teams are not Federal, they do not hesitate to respond to disasters in other States.

These teams have been deployed over the years to numerous disasters, including the Pentagon and World Trade Center on 9/11, Hurricane Sandy, and, most recently, Hurricane Matthew. The challenge has been that when these team members are federalized,

they do not have clarity on who would be responsible if they were injured or even killed while performing their jobs.

It is amazing that we ask these men and women to go into collapsed structures to search for trapped survivors, risking life and limb, without providing them with clarity when it comes to liability and injuries.

The stories of the selfless heroism of these men and women are numerous and humbling. Their work is tireless, physically and emotionally demanding, and nerve-racking.

In Hurricane Matthew, one team helped make more than 100 rescues in North Carolina alone, including the rescue of a 98-year-old hospice patient, when they had to go into areas where the water was 5 to 7 feet above street level, and they could only see the tops of the street signs.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, a single task force rescued more than 850 individuals in 17 hours from a flooded area overwhelmed by a tidal surge. And there are hundreds more such as these accounts.

These heroes play an essential role in the Federal response to national disasters and catastrophes. In addition, the National USAR system benefits our State, local, and regional emergency managers and first responders through training, equipment, and preparedness.

The local government and other entities that sponsor the members of the teams should not have to worry about being left vulnerable or exposed by allowing their employees to participate in such a critical national asset.

After 8 years, it is time to give men and women who put their lives at risk the liability protections they and their families need and deserve. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I would like to compliment the Senate on passing the bill we passed last week, the 21st Century Cures Act, which will help research and save the lives of many Americans, something we did in a bipartisan fashion. I am pleased that that happened.

I rise in support of S. 2971, the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2016, as amended, which codifies the Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

Authorizing the urban search and rescue teams, better known as USAR teams, and codifying protections for team members, such as workers' comp and liability protections, have been a top priority of mine since I first introduced a bill to do so in 2007, my first year in Congress.

I was pleased that the late former Democratic Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman, an outstanding Member, Mr. Oberstar, now deceased, included my USAR language in a bill that was reported from the committee in 2010. Since then, legislation authorizing USAR teams has passed the House several times, and now the Senate has passed one as well.

□ 1515

The 28 urban search and rescue teams that are strategically located across the United States provide timely response when needed in the aftermath of a disaster. In fact, USAR teams can be ready for deployment within 6 hours of being called up.

These specialized teams of first responders provide search and rescue services, extraction from structural collapses, and swift, rapid rescue, among other activities, after disaster strikes. Their dedication is truly commendable, as they drop everything in their busy daily lives to come to the prompt assistance of others when needed.

It should be noted that USAR teams even respond internationally when assistance is requested. In fact, two USAR teams deployed in the aftermath of Nepal's earthquakes in 2015 and were responsible for many rescues from structural collapses.

It is only appropriate that we ensure that they have the protection they need to perform their jobs as well as the peace of mind that will come from clarity in compensation and liability issues.

USAR teams may be composed of firefighters, law enforcement officers, paramedics, engineers, medical professionals, and canine handlers. Often, these team members are civil servants. By extending job protection benefits when activated for Federal service, team members know that their jobs will be waiting at home for them. In addition, it helps USAR teams recruit and retain new members.

Tennessee's USAR, known as Tennessee Task Force One, has a strong commitment to their jobs, and they do an extraordinarily good job. Tennessee Task Force One is based in Memphis, Tennessee, and consists of firefighters, police officers, and civilians; and they responded when called to assist in the aftermath of disasters, such as Hurricane Matthew in South Carolina and, most recently, for the tragic wildfires in our Smoky Mountains. They did so despite the uncertainty of whether they would be covered for any injuries.

Their actions are truly heroic, and I applaud them and their dedication. The protections in today's bill are long overdue, and team members can now rest assured that they will be taken care of if they are injured when performing Federal duties.

I am sadly disappointed, though, that the Republican leadership is once again selectively choosing when and when not to enforce its budget rules. The underlying Senate bill we are considering authorized "such sums as necessary" to carry out the USAR system. Despite the House having passed a bill authorizing "such sums as necessary" for the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System earlier this year, we are now told that this authorization violates budget rules and an amendment and further consideration by the Senate is required.

As a result, USAR team members must wait another day before we afford them the protections that they deserve. They deserve better, and they deserve laws that will ensure that Congress will appropriate adequate funds to support them and their activities.

I thank all the USAR teams for their service, and I thank Mr. BARLETTA for working on this bill as well. I urge my colleagues to support our USAR teams by supporting the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on S. 2971.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2971, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 34) "An Act to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5790) to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5790

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Bureau of Investigation Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES IN THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

Section 2303(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "any employee of the Bureau" and all that follows through "health or safety" and inserting the following: "an employee in, or applicant for, a position in the Bureau as a reprisal for a disclosure of information—

“(1) made—

“(A) in the case of an employee, to a supervisor in the direct chain of command of the employee, up to and including the head of the employing agency;

“(B) to the Inspector General;

“(C) to the Office of Professional Responsibility of the Department of Justice;

“(D) to the Office of Professional Responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

“(E) to the Inspection Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

“(F) as described in section 7211;

“(G) to the Office of Special Counsel; or

“(H) to an employee designated by any officer, employee, office, or division described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) for the purpose of receiving such disclosures; and

“(2) which the employee or applicant reasonably believes evidences—

“(A) any violation of any law, rule, or regulation; or

“(B) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5790, the FBI Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2016, as amended.

We have great respect and admiration for the FBI. They do wonderful work. In fact, I was always proud of my grandfather. He was a career FBI agent serving here in the Greater Washington, D.C., area and then up in Pennsylvania for a long period of time. It is because I respect the FBI and its agents that I helped introduce this bill.

The whistleblower protections in the FBI have really not kept up with the rest of government. That is why we need a change here. The whistleblowers at the FBI should be treated the same as they are within the rest of the Federal Government, and this simple bill goes to help correct that.

H.R. 5790 would clarify Congress' longstanding intent to protect whistleblowers when they make disclosures to the same supervisors who have the power to take personnel actions against them. While a great many changes remain to be made in how the Department of Justice and the FBI respond to whistleblowers, this clarification is not a minor one. If implemented, it would have far-reaching implications in protecting whistleblowers at the FBI just as Congress intended in

1978 in the Whistleblower Protection Act.

The FBI Director, Mr. Comey, testified a year ago in the Senate that he “very much” supports legal protections for FBI employees who follow FBI's own policies and report wrongdoing to their supervisors. Similarly, the Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, testified: “We certainly support protecting those who report within their chain of command.”

I want to thank, in particular, the Senate Judiciary Committee, and specifically Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY for his leadership in first introducing this version of the bill. We are also grateful for the support of my colleagues, including Representative HAKEEM JEFFRIES, who joined me as the lead Democrat on this bill in this House.

I also want to particularly thank ELIJAH CUMMINGS, the ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, a great friend and colleague and somebody who also has been very supportive of the passage of this bill. I thank him for his work and commitment on this issue.

Mr. CUMMINGS, personally and through his dedicated staff, continually has worked hand in hand on whistleblower protections, and this is no exception. Together, we have sent the message throughout the Federal Government that protecting whistleblowers is not a partisan issue, and passing this bill will not mark the end of the road for reforming whistleblower protections at the FBI. In fact, in the next Congress, I look forward to addressing other issues raised by the whistleblower community in the GAO as well as the Department of Justice.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5790, as amended. This bill will provide FBI employees with protection for blowing the whistle to a supervisor and make it a prohibited personnel practice to retaliate against a whistleblower for making such a disclosure.

This bill will also ensure that FBI employees are protected when they blow the whistle to certain other individuals, including the Inspector General of the Department of Justice and the Office of Special Counsel.

These small improvements to protect FBI whistleblowers are why I support this measure before us.

The version of this bill that was reported by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee would have done much more to protect the whistleblowers at the FBI than the measure before us today. The introduced version of this bill would have strengthened the whistleblower protections for FBI employees by more closely aligning them with those of the rest of the Federal workforce.

For example, it would have strengthened the appeals process for whistleblowers by requiring appellate review by the Attorney General and giving employees access to the courts. It would have defined prohibited personnel practices to be consistent with those of other Federal employees, and it would have prohibited the use of nondisclosure agreements unless the employee was fully aware of his or her rights before signing such an agreement.

We should work to enact these additional improvements in the next Congress. All employees deserve strong whistleblower protections, including the employees of the FBI.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my ranking member, Mr. CUMMINGS, and to our chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, thank you for the hearings and the dedicated work to ensure that our FBI agents are protected in any case of whistleblowing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, again, Mrs. LAWRENCE. I want to thank the ranking member, Mr. CUMMINGS.

This is a good, bipartisan issue. It is really a nonpartisan issue. It is to protect Federal employees within the FBI so that they can have the whistleblower protections that, really, most of the rest of the government has, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5790, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TRANSPARENT INSURANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2016

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 944, I call up the bill (H.R. 5143) to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 944, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the

text of Rules Committee Print 114–68, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5143

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The State-based system for insurance regulation in the United States has served American consumers well for more than 150 years and has fostered an open and competitive marketplace with a diversity of insurance products to the benefit of policyholders and consumers.

(2) Protecting policyholders by regulating to ensure an insurer’s ability to pay claims has been the hallmark of the successful United States system and should be the paramount objective of domestic prudential regulation and emerging international standards.

(3) United States officials participating in discussions or negotiations regarding international insurance standards shall support standards designed for the protection of policyholders.

(4) The Secretary of the Treasury shall seek advice and recommendations from a diverse group of outside experts in performing the duties and authorities of the Secretary to coordinate Federal efforts and develop Federal policy on prudential aspects of international insurance matters.

(5) The draft of the Higher Loss Absorbency capital standard adopted in 2015 by the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, notwithstanding the concerns of U.S. parties to the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, unequally affects insurance products offered in the United States, an issue that must be addressed.

(6) Any international standard agreed to at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors is not self-executing in the United States for any insurer until implemented through the required Federal or State legislative or regulatory process.

SEC. 3. OBJECTIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE STANDARDS.

The objectives of the United States regarding international insurance standards are as follows:

(1) To ensure standards that maintain strong protection of policy holders, as reflected in the United States solvency regime.

(2) To ensure, pursuant to enactment of the Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–279), standards that are appropriate for insurers and are not bank-centric in nature.

(3) To promote a principles-based approach to insurance supervision, in which capital adequacy is assessed using risk-based capital requirements for insurance combined with qualitative risk assessment and management tools.

(4) To consider the most efficient and least disruptive approaches to enhancing regulatory assessment of the capital adequacy of insurance groups, including tools that are already in place.

(5) To ensure that any international insurance standard recognizes prudential measures used within the United States as satisfying standards finalized by international standard-setting organizations.

(6) To support increasing transparency at any global insurance or international standard-setting organization in which the United States participates, including advocating for greater stakeholder public observer access to working groups and committee meetings of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

(7) To ensure that there is a sufficient period for public consultation and comment regarding any proposed international insurance standard before it takes effect.

(8) To ensure that the Secretary of the Treasury and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System achieve consensus positions with State insurance commissioners when the Secretary and the Board are United States participants in discussions on insurance issues before the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, Financial Stability Board, or any other international forum of financial regulators or supervisors that considers such issues.

(9) To consider the impact of any such standard on the availability and cost of products to consumers.

(10) To avoid measures that could limit the availability and accessibility of risk protection and retirement security products that are essential to meeting the needs of aging populations.

(11) To ensure that the merits of existing State-based capital standards are recognized and incorporated in any domestic or global insurance capital standard.

(12) To advocate for insurance regulatory standards that are based on the nature, scale, and complexity of the risks posed by the regulated insurance group and entity or activity.

SEC. 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSENT TO ADOPT INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE STANDARDS.

(a) PUBLICATION OF STANDARDS; ADOPTION OF CAPITAL AND PRUDENTIAL STANDARDS.—The United States may not agree to, accept, establish, enter into, or consent to the adoption of a final international insurance standard with an international standard-setting organization or a foreign government, authority, or regulatory entity unless the requirements under both of the following paragraphs are complied with:

(1) PUBLICATION.—The requirements under this paragraph are complied with if the conditions under one of the following subparagraphs have been met:

(A) BY FEDERAL RESERVE AND TREASURY.—The Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Secretary of the Treasury have caused the proposed text of the proposed final international insurance standard to be published in the Federal Register and made available for public comment for a period of not fewer than 30 days (which period may run concurrently with the 90-day period referred to in subsection (b)(3)).

(B) BY STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.—The State insurance commissioners have caused the proposed text of the proposed international insurance standard to be published in a similar form and manner that provides for notice and public comment.

(2) CAPITAL STANDARD.—In the case only of a final international insurance standard setting forth any capital standard or standards for insurers—

(A) such international capital standard is consistent with capital requirements set forth in the State-based system of insurance regulation;

(B) the Board has issued capital requirements for insurance companies supervised by the Board and subject to such requirements, which shall be issued through rulemaking in accordance with the procedures established under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, regarding substantive rules, under which the periods for notice and public comment shall each have a duration of not fewer than 60 days; and

(C) to the extent that such international capital standard is intended to be applied to a company or companies supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, is consistent with the capital requirements of the Board for such companies.

(b) SUBMISSION AND LAYOVER PROVISIONS.—The Secretary and the Board may not agree to, accept, establish, enter into, or consent to the adoption of an international insurance standard established through an international stand-

ard-setting organization or a foreign government, authority, or regulatory entity unless—

(1) the Secretary and the Board have—

(A) conducted an analysis under subsection (c) of the proposed international insurance standard; and

(B) submitted to the covered congressional committees, on a day on which both Houses of Congress are in session, a copy of the proposed final text of the proposed international insurance standard and the report required under subsection (c)(2) regarding such analysis;

(2) the Secretary and the Chairman of the Board have determined, pursuant to such analysis, that the proposed standard will not result in any change in State law;

(3) with respect to a capital standard under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary and the Chairman of the Board certify that the proposed international capital standard is designed solely to help ensure that sufficient funds are available to pay claims to an insurer’s policyholders in the event of the liquidation of that entity; and

(4) a period of 90 calendar days beginning on the date on which the copy of the proposed final text of the standard is submitted to the covered congressional committees under paragraph (1)(B) has expired, during which period the Congress may take action to approve or reject such final standard.

(c) JOINT ANALYSIS BY CHAIR OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE AND SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An analysis under this subsection of a proposed final international insurance standard shall be an analysis conducted by the Secretary and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in consultation with the State insurance commissioners, of the impact of such standard on consumers and markets in the United States and whether any changes in State law will result from such final standard.

(2) REPORT.—Upon completion of an analysis under this subsection of a final international insurance standard, the Secretary and the Board shall submit a report on the results of the analysis to the covered congressional committees and the Comptroller General of the United States. The report shall include a statement setting forth the determination made pursuant to paragraph (1) regarding any changes in State law resulting from such final standard.

(3) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—

(A) NOTICE.—The Secretary and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall provide notice before the date on which drafting the report is commenced and after the date on which the draft of the report is completed.

(B) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT.—There shall be an opportunity for public comment for a period beginning on the date on which the report is submitted under paragraph (2) and ending on the date that is not fewer than 60 days after the date on which the report is submitted. Nothing in this subparagraph shall affect the authority of the Board to issue the rule referred to in subsection (a)(2).

(4) REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Upon submission of a report pursuant to paragraph (2) to the Comptroller General, the Comptroller General shall review the report and shall submit a report to the Congress setting forth the conclusions of the Comptroller General’s review.

(d) LIMITED EFFECT.—This section may not be construed to establish or expand any authority to implement an international insurance standard in the United States or for the United States or any representative of the Federal Government to adopt or enter into any international insurance standard.

(e) TREATMENT OF STATE LAW.—In accordance with the Act of March 9, 1945 (Chapter 20; 59 Stat. 33; 15 U.S.C. 1011 et seq.), commonly referred to as the “McCarran-Ferguson Act”, this section may not be construed to preempt State law.

SEC. 5. REPORTS.

(a) **REPORTS AND TESTIMONY BY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AND CHAIR OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE.**—The Secretary and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall submit to the covered congressional committees an annual report and provide testimony, not less often than every 6 months, to the covered congressional committees on the efforts of the Secretary and the Chairman with the State insurance commissioners with respect to international insurance standard-setting organizations and international insurance standards, including—

(1) a description of the insurance standard-setting issues under discussion at international standard-setting bodies, including the Financial Stability Board and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors;

(2) a description of the effects that international insurance standards could have on consumers and insurance markets in the United States;

(3) a description of any position taken by the Secretary and the Board in international insurance discussions or on any international insurance standard;

(4) a description of the efforts by the Secretary and the Board to increase transparency and accountability at the Financial Stability Board with respect to insurance proposals and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, including efforts to provide additional public access to working groups and committees of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors; and

(5) a description of how the Secretary and the Board are meeting the objectives set forth in section 3, or, if such objectives are not being met, an explanation of the reasons for not meeting such objectives.

(b) **REPORTS AND TESTIMONY BY STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.**—The State insurance commissioners may provide testimony or reports to the Congress on the issues described in subsection (a).

(c) **REPORT ON TRANSPARENCY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report and provide testimony to the Congress on the efforts of the Chairman and the Secretary pursuant to subsection (a)(4) of this section to increase transparency at meetings of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

(d) **GAO REPORT ON TRANSPARENCY OF OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the covered congressional committees a report, and provide testimony to such committees, identifying and analyzing the transparency and accountability of any organization acting as a designee of, or at the direction of, the head of a State insurance department on issues related to international insurance standards, which is not employed directly by the State.

(2) **CONTENT.**—The report and testimony required under this section shall include a description and analysis of—

(A) the role, involvement, or relationship, of any organization identified pursuant to paragraph (1), of, with, or to the State insurance departments' activities as authorized by, directed by, or otherwise referred to in this Act, including a description and analysis regarding such organization's participation in policy and decision-making deliberations and activities related to international insurance standards;

(B) any financial support provided by such organization to any State insurance department personnel in furtherance of their activities related to international insurance standards, the nature and amount of such support, and any understandings between the organization and the State regarding travel protocols and State

laws governing State officials' receipt of, benefiting from, or being subsidized by, outside funds;

(C) the budget, including revenues and expenses, of any organization identified pursuant to paragraph (1) relating to participation in international insurance discussions on issues before, involving, or relating to the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, the Financial Stability Board, or any other international forum of financial regulators or supervisors that considers such issues, and how the organization collects money to fund such activities;

(D) whether each such budget of such an organization is developed under a process comparable in its transparency and accountability to the process under which budgets are developed and appropriated for State departments of insurance and Federal executive branch regulatory agencies, including—

(i) an identification of any bodies independent of the organization that set standards for and/or oversee that organization's budgeting process; and

(ii) a description of the extent to which and how the organization, in funding its operations, uses or benefits from its members' ability to compel entities subject to its members' regulatory authority to use the services of the organization or any of its affiliates; and

(E) the extent to which the work product of any organization identified pursuant to paragraph (1) has the effect of establishing any self-executing national standards, and in what way, and whether such standards are developed under processes comparable in their transparency and accountability to the process under which national standards are developed by the Congress or Federal executive branch agencies.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the designee of the Board.

(2) **COVERED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “covered congressional committees” means the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(3) **INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE STANDARD.**—The term “international insurance standard” means any international insurance supervisory standard developed by an international standards setting organization, or regulatory or supervisory forum, in which the United States participates, including the Common Framework for the Supervision of Internationally Active Insurance Groups, the Financial Stability Board, and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary's designee.

(5) **STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.**—The term “State insurance commissioners” means the heads of the State insurance departments or their designees acting at their direction.

SEC. 7. TREATMENT OF COVERED AGREEMENTS.

Section 314 of title 31, United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

“(1) the Secretary of the Treasury and the United States Trade Representative have caused to be published in the Federal Register, and made available for public comment for a period of not fewer than 30 days (which period may run concurrently with the 90-day period for the covered agreement referred to in paragraph (3)), the proposed text of the covered agreement;”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(d) **CONSULTATION WITH STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.**—In any negotiations regarding a contemplated covered agreement, the Secretary and the United States Trade Representative shall consult with and directly include State insurance commissioners.

“(e) **PROHIBITION ON REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**—In accordance with subsections (k) and (l) of section 313, a covered agreement shall not be used to establish or provide the Federal Insurance Office or the Treasury with any general supervisory or regulatory authority over the business of insurance or with the authority to participate in a supervisory college or similar process.

“(f) **TREATMENT UNDER OTHER LAW.**—A covered agreement shall not be considered an international insurance standard for purposes of the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016 and shall not be subject to such Act.”.

SEC. 8. DUTIES OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF FINANCIAL STABILITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL.

Subsection (a) of section 112 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5322(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) **DUTIES OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER.**—To assist the Council with its responsibilities to monitor international insurance developments, advise Congress, and make recommendations, the Independent Member of the Council shall have the authority to—

“(A) regularly consult with international insurance supervisors and international financial stability counterparts;

“(B) consult with, advise, and assist the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to representing the Federal Government of the United States, as appropriate, in the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (including to become a non-voting member thereof), particularly on matters of systemic risk, and to consult with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the States concerning such matters;

“(C) attend the Financial Stability Board of The Group of Twenty and join with other members from the United States, including on matters related to insurance and financial stability, and provide for the attendance and participation at such Board, on matters related to insurance and financial stability, of State insurance commissioners; and

“(D) attend, with the United States delegation, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and observe and participate at the Insurance and Private Pensions Committee of such Organization on matters related to insurance and financial stability.”.

SEC. 9. STATE INSURANCE REGULATOR INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SETTING.

Parties representing the United States at the Financial Stability Board of the Group of Twenty on matters, and in meetings, related to insurance and financial stability shall consult with, and seek to include in such meetings, the State insurance commissioners.

SEC. 10. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to support or endorse the domestic capital standard for insurers referred to in section 4(a)(2) or any such domestic capital standards established by the Board.

SEC. 11. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RESERVE FUND.

Clause (i) of section 4(i)(2)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78d(i)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, except that for fiscal year 2017, the amount deposited may not exceed \$43,000,000”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

□ 1530

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016.

Introduced by my good friend and colleague, the chairman of the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee of our committee, BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, H.R. 5143 enhances Congress' constitutional oversight of international deliberations relating to insurance standards. Mr. Speaker, again, this is legislation which is about accountability, transparency, and oversight.

More specifically, the legislation establishes a series of requirements to be met before the Federal Insurance Office or the Federal Reserve may agree to accept, establish, enter into, or consent to the adoption of a final international insurance standard. Permit me to go into greater detail.

First, the Federal Insurance Office and the Fed must publish any proposed final standard and allow for public comment. A public comment is critical to our negotiating posture, Mr. Speaker. In so doing, the involved agencies must provide a joint analysis of the impact the standard will have on consumers and the U.S. insurance markets. Before agreeing to any international standard relating to capital, the Fed is required to first promulgate its domestic capital standard rule.

The bill makes similar requirements for negotiations concerning insurance covered agreements. It sets negotiating objectives for U.S. parties and also mandates that the Federal Insurance Office and the Fed report and testify before Congress twice annually.

Finally, H.R. 5143 ensures that the independent member with insurance expertise who sits on the Financial Stability Oversight Council, known as FSOC, is permitted to assist the FSOC in international discussions and attend meetings of international bodies where insurance standards are discussed.

Mr. Speaker, for almost 150 years, U.S. insurance companies of every type—including property-casualty, life, reinsurance, health, and auto—have been primarily regulated by our States. Congress and the States have occasionally reviewed the effectiveness of the State-based regulation of insurance and coordinated efforts to achieve greater regulatory uniformity. In 1949, Congress passed the McCarran-Ferguson Act, which confirmed the States'

regulatory authority over insurance, except where Federal law expressly provides otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, this changed with the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act in 2010. Dodd-Frank changed the insurance landscape and further enlarged the Federal Government's role in the insurance industry by creating a Federal office specifically tasked with insurance matters. Dodd-Frank established the Federal Insurance Office at Treasury and charged its director with representing the interest of U.S. insurers during negotiations of international agreements.

Among other things, H.R. 5143 seeks to prevent any Federal overreach and establishes essential guardrails for the Federal Government when discussing international insurance issues abroad. The bill is not intended to bring international negotiations to any type of halt. Team USA has experienced victories at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, and has kept Congress informed of its intent to negotiate the first of what could be many covered agreements.

However, we should not underestimate the importance of these conversations or the implications they can have on insurers and the American consumers because they need to be heard and they need to be represented.

As the leader of a Missouri-based midsize insurance company has told our committee, Mr. Speaker:

We worry about the potential negative impacts any international agreement could have on the domestic marketplace or the State-based regulatory system that has served consumer and insurance needs for more than a century.

He added:

Congress should conduct strong oversight in this area in order to protect domestic insurance markets, companies, and especially their policy holders.

Strong oversight and transparency are, indeed, absolutely essential, and that is what we get with this bill.

It is simply imperative that our States, the executive branch, and Congress work cooperatively to signify to the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, the Financial Stability Board, and to foreign governments that we will only lend our name to standards and agreements that benefit U.S. consumers. The bill we are considering today will assuredly lead us to this goal.

Again, H.R. 5143 provides greater transparency, allows for a stronger Team USA in negotiations, and sends a signal to foreign governments and international organizations that the United States will lead and not be led into bad agreements. With the greater congressional oversight the bill provides, we can ensure that any deal that is reached will be a fair deal, and a good deal, for the American people.

Again, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), for his leadership, yet again, on bringing an excellent bill to the House floor.

I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Last week, the majority made it clear that it was just getting started with the special interest giveaways at the expense of financial stability and consumer protection.

Now, before we adjourn, we are here to debate one last holiday gift to Wall Street. This bill's gift is less oversight of the largest insurers in the United States, which will put us at risk for another AIG. Don't forget, AIG was bailed out to the tune of \$182 billion.

While Democrats passed Wall Street reform to prevent another crisis and future bailouts, Chairman HENSARLING and Donald Trump have made it clear that Dodd-Frank is on the chopping block. Without the safeguards in Dodd-Frank, a lack of capital standards for large insurance companies will put our economy at risk.

No one should be surprised at what is taking place here. This is Donald Trump's agenda. Despite promises to hold Wall Street accountable, the President-elect is proposing an administration that is heavy on Wall Street insiders. Their plans will do little to help the millions of Americans struggling to get ahead, but that is by design. Because "Trumpism" isn't really about helping the middle class. It is about lining the pockets of some of our biggest banks and insurance companies.

AIG, as I mentioned, is a poster child of the financial crisis. It engaged in financial activities that more closely resemble investment banking than traditional insurance.

Prior to the crisis, State regulators, which have primary jurisdiction over insurance companies, did not effectively account for AIG's activities related to credit derivatives or securities lending, for example, which allowed it to skate by with minimum capital. When AIG's bets on subprime mortgage-backed securities failed, it collapsed and required a taxpayer bailout. Recall that we bailed out AIG because it was a counterparty to nearly all of the largest global banks; meaning that if AIG failed, it would bring down a series of global megabanks with it.

So under Dodd-Frank, we improved the oversight of insurance companies by giving Federal regulators the necessary tools to prevent another collapse of large, globally active insurance companies. We are talking about the big boys here: AIG, MetLife, and Prudential. For the past several years, Federal regulators have been overseeing systematically important financial institutions, which are identified as such because they are expected to pose a substantial risk to our financial stability if they fail. Our Federal regulators have also been negotiating with

140 other countries on international standards for large globally connected insurers.

However, today's bill is designed to undermine the progress we have made on this front, and to ultimately prevent the adoption of these capital standards in the United States.

In fact, H.R. 5143 would add layers of burdensome red tape and unworkable requirements on our Federal negotiators, making it virtually impossible for them to advocate effectively for U.S. interests on these issues or agree to any kind of standard. For example, this bill would prevent negotiators from agreeing to any standard unless it focuses exclusively on a company's ability to pay claims. However, focusing exclusively on a company's ability to pay claims can lead those same policyholders vulnerable to systemic failure.

Moreover, by crippling our ability to engage effectively on international insurance issues, this bill will ensure that the rest of the world will move on to adopt standards that are not in our best interest.

At worst, this bill is unconstitutional—something that the administration detailed in its statement of policy—raising multiple conflicts between the President's exclusive authority on international agreements and the bill's requirements to directly include State insurance commissioners in international negotiations.

At best, this bill is a solution in search of a problem. It caters to an unfounded fear that internationally agreed upon policies would be forced upon the small, domestic insurance companies and unwilling States.

Let me again reiterate that the standards being negotiated internationally are for the largest insurers that operate all over the world—companies like AIG, MetLife, and Prudential. It is a scare tactic to claim that these standards would be applied to anyone but the largest and most interconnected global insurers.

Second, States can never be compelled to adopt international standards such as these. These standards are non-binding and each individual State has the discretion to adopt them, modify them, or reject them entirely after going through their full regulatory process.

Third, stakeholders have ample opportunity to weigh in on these discussions. For example, Federal negotiators have held multiple sessions for stakeholders to provide input, and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors has greatly improved public access and consultation. Yet, this bill, H.R. 5143, would require several additional notice and comment periods and several other layers of unnecessary red tape.

To make matters worse, the sponsor proposes to pay for the bill's costs by taking \$7 million from the Securities and Exchange Commission's reserve fund, which means that our financial

watchdog will be unable to respond to unforeseen events, like the flash crash.

In short, this bill would ask taxpayers to pay for the cost of rejecting capital standards by taking away the funding the SEC needs to respond to emergency situations that threaten financial stability. That just doubles down on the irresponsible policymaking we have seen by the opposite side of the aisle.

As the veto threat issued by the White House on this bill states:

The Nation has made great progress as a result of Dodd-Frank, and we cannot allow this bill to hamper the United States' ability to implement the best standards for our unique regulatory regime.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Republicans will go to any lengths necessary to give industry what it wants—less oversight, less supervision, and less regulation. Republicans have repeatedly tried to hamstring our efforts to more effectively monitor and respond to systemic risk by working to dismantle the FSOC and its designation authority for SIFIs. They have called the FSOC unconstitutional and helped companies like MetLife challenge its designation in court. So I am not really surprised that Republicans would close out 2016 by bringing this bill to the floor, but I am disappointed because the American people deserve better.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), the author of H.R. 5143 and the chairman of our Housing and Insurance Subcommittee.

□ 1545

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. I thank the chairman for his tireless help and support in getting this bill to where it is today.

Mr. Speaker, insurance serves as the backbone of financial independence for millions of Americans. It offers support when it is needed the most so that consumers can be assured that they are protected in the event of a loss. Our Nation has a history of thoughtful insurance regulation and strong consumer confidence. To ensure that, we need to make sure that foreign regulators don't do anything to jeopardize that.

The Transparent Insurance Standards Act would establish a series of reasonable requirements to be met before our Team USA, if you will—the Treasury's Federal Insurance Office, the Federal Reserve, or any other party to international regulatory conversations—consents to the adoption of a final insurance standard. H.R. 5143 would also require Team USA to publish any proposed final standard for congressional review and public comment.

Additionally, H.R. 5143 would institute a 90-day layover period, allowing

Congress the ability to block any international agreement. It would also ensure State insurance commissioners a broader role in negotiations, thereby protecting our State-based regulatory system that has served policyholders so well. In doing so, the bill would not only help protect the best interests of U.S. insurance customers, but it would also be a step in restoring the powers vested to Congress in Article I of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, when the Financial Services Committee embarked on this journey, the intent was to craft a bill that not only respected the process, but that provided this body and the public with more opportunity. As such, H.R. 5143 has been drafted with the input of a wide variety of stakeholders, and it has generated broad support. This bill is not intended to bring the international process to a halt. Rather, it will serve as leverage for U.S. negotiators and will ensure that we are in a position to export domestic standards rather than import European-centric ones.

The truth of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is that our constituents don't read about international insurance standards in the local paper or discuss them at the dinner table. However, these conversations and the negotiations at the IAIS have real implications on U.S. companies and, more importantly, on every American policyholder.

Given that, consideration of this bill shouldn't be a partisan affair. Many of my friends across the aisle and their constituents would like to see more sunshine on this international process, and this bill does just that. It is imperative that the United States—that is, the States, the executive branch, and Congress—work cooperatively to signal to the IAIS and foreign governments that we will only lend our name to standards and agreements that benefit U.S. customers. We will lead and not be led, as our chairman just said.

Again, I thank Chairman HENSARLING for his support of this important bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 5143.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER), the ranking member of the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. CLEAVER. I thank the ranking member for allowing me to speak on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I find much greater satisfaction in working on legislation with the subcommittee chairman, BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, than opposing such; but, Mr. Speaker, I do, in fact, believe that H.R. 5143 would prescribe narrowly tailored reporting and negotiating requirements that must be completed before any international regulatory insurance standard could be agreed on.

In the wake of the financial crisis with the passage of Dodd-Frank, the Federal Insurance Office, FIO, was

tasked with representing the United States at international insurance forums. Currently, the FIO has been negotiating alongside the Federal Reserve and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, NAIC, on behalf of our country's insurance interests. The Housing and Insurance Subcommittee has held numerous hearings on this topic, giving us ample opportunity to more fully understand the process that is being undertaken at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors as well as with other international bodies.

It is critical that Team USA continue to advocate strongly on behalf of the U.S. insurance system, and it is imperative that we do not hamstring their ability to do so. More specifically, the bill contains a number of provisions that would ultimately delay our negotiations abroad. If we limit the ability of our negotiators to do their job, we lose our seat at the international table, which, I believe, will weaken our position. Like most on the other side, I am a strong proponent of the State-based system.

Our Missouri insurance commissioner has recently held a national position. In order to effectively communicate our position and advocate for this unique American system, we need to ensure that our international representatives are empowered, and we believe that this actually impacts their role at the table.

Additionally, none of the standards that may be decided upon internationally are binding. This is, perhaps, the most significant thing I am saying. As everyone knows, the States would have to approve any standards because we can't impose those standards on them. These standards would have to be agreed to domestically—they would have to go to each and every State—and they won't be approved on the Federal level. This process would include a notice and a comment period.

I do believe that this bill does not address a single problem, that it does not fix any broken part of this process that is going on.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and a heavy heart that I yield to the next gentleman. I have a heavy heart because I fear this will be the last time I yield time to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER); but it is with great pride that, for 14 years, I have called him friend and colleague. He is retiring from this institution. He has been tireless in his service to our committee, his constituents, and this country. He has been a tireless advocate for the cause of freedom, free enterprise, and the lot of the common man and the common woman; and this will be a lesser institution upon his departure.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), my friend.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the chairman and thank him for his leadership and his kind words.

It has been a great pleasure to serve on this Financial Services Committee. I think we have done some good work. I enjoyed working with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle on some issues as well. I wish you the very best as you continue as a committee to work on behalf of Americans all across the country to make sure that they have access to the financial products that they need for their families.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5143, offered by my good friend from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER).

The Transparent Insurance Standards Act is critically important to ensuring that the U.S. State-based model for regulating insurance is preserved and that international agreements benefit U.S. consumers. Since the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act, the increased role of the Federal Government in insurance regulation has led to changes to U.S. participation in international insurance forums, like the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

The Federal Insurance Office, FIO, is charged with representing the interests of U.S. insurers during negotiations of international agreements. Further, the FIO, along with the Federal Reserve, is an active participant in international standard-setting bodies. Over the last several years, developments in international insurance supervision have created tension with our State-based model.

The European Union has moved toward a single regulatory structure for its member states. This effort, known as Solvency II, will harmonize the varied regulatory regimes in each European nation. Many have raised concern that Solvency II will be adopted as the gold standard for international insurance supervision. Solvency II could put the U.S. insurance industry and the U.S. policyholders at a disadvantage.

H.R. 5143 is important legislation that enhances the congressional oversight of international deliberations for insurance regulation. It holds both the FIO and the Federal Reserve to important benchmarks that ensure that U.S. interests are being represented. For example, the agencies must provide joint analyses on the impact of proposed international standards on U.S. consumers and insurance markets. Further, it allows for public comment on any proposed final standard that the U.S. may agree to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. These regulatory checks are not new to many U.S. agencies, which already must comply with certain Administrative Procedure Act requirements when setting Federal standards. While there may be a critical role for U.S. representatives to play in the international insurance discussion, it is important that our advocates ensure that U.S. interests are not recklessly pushed aside in the name of global harmony.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5143.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the ranking member of the Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee on the Financial Services Committee.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentlewoman.

I join the chairman in thanking Congressman NEUGEBAUER for his outstanding service to this institution, to his district, and to this country. He has been an outstanding Member. It has been a pleasure to serve with him.

We will miss you. Thank you for your friendship, your consideration, and your really hard work for good, sound policy in this country. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5143.

I believe that it would undermine the Fed's ability to negotiate international agreements on insurance regulation, and I think that that will cause a big problem for insurance in our country.

Telling the Fed that it can't agree to any international standard on insurance that isn't already the law in the United States absolutely makes no sense whatsoever. The other countries would simply stop negotiating with us, and I believe we would lose our voice and our seat at the table, and that is not good for America.

It is also important to remember that nothing the Fed or Treasury agrees to internationally can be binding on State insurance regulators. That is already the law, and we don't need a new law to tell us that. The Fed does regulate 14 insurance companies through its holding companies. This has been a Federal authority, and there is nothing new about that.

The Fed should be able to align the insurance regulations that it has authority over with the regulations in other countries. One of the big lessons of the scandal and of the economic downturn of 2008 was that different regulatory regimes in different countries could have different incentives, and some of them were bad incentives—for example, AIG. The only problem that existed with this country was in the different incentives in England.

I am very uncomfortable with a bill that hampers the Federal Reserve's ability to regulate the safety and soundness of the large insurance holding companies that it has authority over and to ensure that those regulatory standards are consistent internationally, so I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), and I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman be able to control the remainder of such time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), who is the Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee chairman.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I thank my fellow subcommittee chairman for working with me to protect the State-based insurance regulatory model that has served our Nation so well for 150 years.

To my colleague from New York, I am very comfortable with this bill and with the underlying philosophy that has brought us here.

Mr. Speaker, I am a former State representative in the Michigan Legislature, and I know firsthand that Michigan does a better job of protecting policyholders within their borders than the Federal Government does or could. Even more so, Michigan certainly knows how to maintain a robust insurance marketplace that works for Michigan customers. Additionally, Michigan serves as an entry point for several foreign companies which then come into the U.S. marketplace.

However, there are bureaucrats in Washington who believe that they know best. The Dodd-Frank Act significantly expanded the Federal Government's role in the insurance marketplace by creating the Federal Insurance Office and charging the Director with representing the U.S. during the negotiations of international agreements. At the same time, the Dodd-Frank Act changed domestic insurance regulation, which also led to the changes in U.S. participation at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, or IAIS.

□ 1600

The IAIS develops international insurance regulations for its 190 jurisdictions in more than 140 countries to then adopt those. I am concerned that this could influence the U.S. to replace the State-based insurance regulatory model with international standards that were created by unelected European bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, our States are, as Justice Brandeis so eloquently coined, "laboratories of democracy;" and in his words that means that a "State may, if its citizens choose, serve as a laboratory; and try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country."

I can't think of a better example of a successful experiment than the State-based insurance regulatory system, especially in my home State of Michigan. That is why the protections provided in the Transparent Insurance Standards Act are so vitally important.

The straightforward bill simply gives the States and Congress the opportunity to comment on any international insurance standard before it may be adopted.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this very, very important bill and support our system that has existed for 150 years.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK), who is a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am especially grateful to the ranking member for allowing me this opportunity.

First, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the gentlewoman from New York and the other gentleman from Texas regarding our colleague, Mr. NEUGEBAUER. From the day that I walked into this Chamber, he has been nothing but a paragon of gentlemanliness toward myself and my colleagues. In fact, every freshman receives a flag flown over the Capitol that Congressman NEUGEBAUER has had flown. And wouldn't you know it, small world category: 2,000 miles away, he happened to be good friends with my uncle, which I didn't even know until he arrived here. He will be missed. He is a testament to how you can see the world completely differently, yet be able to treat one another with respect.

Mr. Speaker, I am a little uncomfortable because this is the second time in a week I have risen to oppose a proposal by my friend from Missouri who I think actually is trying to do the right thing and with whom I have dealt in good faith and who has dealt in good faith with us. But I do, in fact, rise to oppose this bill because in some cases it goes too far, in some cases it won't work, and in some cases, frankly, it doesn't go far enough.

It goes too far in terms of stealing the money from the SEC reserve to pay for this. Its costs and those associated with its implementation should not be borne by another enforcement agency whose job it is to keep us safe.

It won't work in terms of its reporting requirements: all of these expensive requirements that require the rate on the SEC, the transparency, the reporting. Anybody who knows anything about negotiations knows you can't post a public notice about what you intend to do and hope to be successful on the outcome.

I happen to have been a professional on both sides of the labor management negotiations table, and I can tell you, the last thing in the world you want to do is post your playbook. That would be a little bit like the football team saying: Come here, defense; let me tell you what we are going to do.

That would, in fact, be the net effect of this particular approach.

The objective: to maintain the integrity in the McCarran-Ferguson Act is the right one. It is the wrong approach. In some cases it, frankly, doesn't go far enough because, the truth is, we ought to have these international discussions and negotiations for international firms; but this bill would only apply to the IAIS. There are a lot of international forums where insurance is at the table. The fact of the matter is, the State regulators ought to be at those tables as well.

Look, there is a better way. I offer it to you. It is a bill I have introduced, which is H.R. 6436, that takes a principle-based approach. It merely says that the State-based insurance regulators have got to be at the table, and we have to protect that system. It is a principle-based, not a top-down, command and control heavy bureaucracy approach to achieving the same objective while at the same time ensuring that we provide adequate protection and regulation for international insurance companies, but respecting the State-based system.

I don't know why we can't get the win-win here. You know, I find it ironic that my legislation, H.R. 6436, actually enjoys broad-based support among the stakeholders: the regulated and, yes, the regulators. The State-based insurance regulators believe that this is the best approach to take, and it is the one I think is a win-win for everybody. It achieves everybody's objectives. That is not what H.R. 5143 will do.

H.R. 5143 goes too far in some cases, won't work in others, and doesn't go far enough in others. So I hope that you will reject it, provide us with an opportunity to continue to negotiate in good faith, and get to win-win because win-win is possible in this circumstance.

I, once again, thank the ranking member very much for this opportunity.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), who is chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LUETKEMEYER for all of his work on this bill, H.R. 5143.

As we enter into this debate, I think it is important to look at who supports what. If you look at insurers in States like Wisconsin, they have looked at Mr. LUETKEMEYER's bill and they love it. They think it is a great bill because it protects the American State-based model.

If you are a large global insurer, you don't like this bill because you want one global international standard that you have to comply with.

So we are here fighting for the little guy, those little insurance companies that dot all of our States, that serve our communities and our families; and the opposition is standing with the large insurers which have been more concerned about this bill than the little guy, which goes to my point.

I am concerned that the Federal Reserve and Treasury could enter into an international framework that undermines the U.S. system in favor of, again, this European-centric model that is inconsistent with our American model. If you look at this great American model, it has worked for 150 years.

Look back to the 2008 crisis. This system in America, with a ton of pressure, it performed beautifully. It did really well. Why do you want to cash that in for a different model?

I guess my concern is that those State insurers like in my State, they are not even regulated at the Federal level, but they are concerned that on the track that we are going, they very well may be.

This is pretty simple stuff.

What Mr. LUETKEMEYER is looking for is openness and transparency. He just doesn't want Washington bureaucrats negotiating a deal. He wants all stakeholders as part of this deal. And lo and behold, it is a remarkable concept; but if we are going to have fundamental changes to our insurance law, why only have unelected bureaucrats make those decisions? Why not empower the Congress, the people who are responsive to the American electorate?

We should have a say in this process. Put us back in control, which is exactly what Chairman LUETKEMEYER does.

It is a great bill. I encourage all of my friends on both sides of the aisle to show their resounding support.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for his work on H.R. 5143. I rise in strong support of the legislation.

Now, what we are hearing on the floor today is very similar, I suspect, to the discussion at the founding of this country, yet some who wanted a strong central government, strong regulating powers from Washington and some who said, no, that will not be the best way to provide a strong economy, that we should send the decisions closer to where people live. Frankly, that choice is being played out worldwide right now, and that is the case with the question in front of us.

Should we allow people in Europe to tell us what our markets will look like here?

Now, there are those who say yes. I am in the group that says no. Because our system here has created its own stability. In the financial difficulties of 2008 and 2009, our market performed just perfectly. We have got 56 different regulators, each one has their own responsibility. It provides a safer market for the consumer. It provides a safer product for the consumers to purchase. Why we would send that authority to some other country across the oceans just never made sense to those of us who want the decisions made closer to the people.

Secondly, we have to think that it is good for American jobs. Anytime people in a different country are deciding what the rules are, they are going to skew it in favor of themselves. Again, our market is well diversified. It is spread among the States, and it provides insurance markets for every individual State and some more than just the one.

So that tells us that it is good for the economy, it is good for the consumer;

but, finally, we need the stabilizing force here, the ability for Americans to determine what we are going to do.

I think that the recent election has been maybe a referendum on: Do we want to give up power to the local people, or do we just send it away?

Mr. LUETKEMEYER's bill preserves power for the people. It preserves power for the Congress. I would urge support for Mr. LUETKEMEYER's bill, H.R. 5143.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016, with my good friend and colleague from the State of Missouri, Representative BLAINE LUETKEMEYER.

Dodd-Frank reversed a nearly 150-year precedent of the U.S. insurance industry being regulated primarily by the States. From property-casualty, life, reinsurance, health, and even auto, the Obama administration and Dodd-Frank created a more invasive role for the Federal Government to intervene in this industry.

Where this has become apparent is during the negotiations of international agreements regarding insurance standards, where our foreign counterparts, particularly in the European Union, are trying to force us to adopt their standard and forgo our State-based insurance regime.

Most concerning is that many of these meetings take place behind closed doors with little accountability or transparency while our Federal Government says they are negotiating on behalf of our best interests.

H.R. 5143 would enhance congressional oversight into these deliberations by establishing requirements to be met before the Federal Government can agree to the adoption of any final international insurance standards or covered agreements. Setting these procedures in place ensures that Missouri policyholders and customers will be protected from premium increases by having to adopt international standards that don't apply or make sense here in the United States.

Americans are sick and tired of the Federal Government making choices on their behalf without proper input and oversight. Congress needs to be more involved in these negotiations that could have substantial impacts on policyholders across the country.

I have two letters of support from companies in Missouri that represent over 40,000 customers and employees in the State. The companies state that this bill will help prevent costs from being driven up in Missouri, and I would like to include these letters in the RECORD.

CAMERON INSURANCE COMPANIES,

August 19, 2016.

To: MEMBERS OF THE MISSOURI CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: On behalf of Cameron Mutual Insurance Company and the 39,370 policyholders/employees in Missouri, I am writing to ask for your support. During the next few months, U.S. negotiators and their international counterparts are scheduled to meet behind closed doors around the globe approximately three dozen times to make strategic decisions on new international capital and regulatory standards. The U.S. is under pressure from international regulators to adopt their standards. These types of changes have the very real potential to drive up costs here at home.

It is important that the U.S. defend its effective system of insurance regulation. Our U.S. negotiators should not agree to new standards that could eventually weaken U.S. consumer protections, reduce competition, and, according to economist Robert Shapiro, cost homeowners insurance consumers up to an additional \$100 per year.

H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016, introduced by Missouri's own Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, provides critically important checks and balances regarding negotiations on international insurance standards by requiring transparency, accountability, and consultation with Congress, and allowing for public input. The bill passed the House Financial Services Committee in June.

It is critical for Congress to act on this legislation now and I am asking you to defend U.S. insurance markets and to preserve our effective, consumer-focused, state-based system of insurance regulation. Please contact House leadership and the Financial Services Committee leadership and request a September House floor vote on H.R. 5143.

Transparency, accountability, and consultation with Congress and the public is a simple and reasonable approach to ensure our system is not undermined by closed-door international regulatory fora. H.R. 5143 strengthens the U.S. voice by requiring U.S. state and federal negotiators reach consensus on advocacy positions and supporting them by shining a light on the negotiations.

Sincerely,

BRAD M. FOWLER,
President/Chief Executive Officer,
Cameron Mutual Insurance Company.

SHELTER INSURANCE COMPANIES,

September 7, 2016.

Re: H.R. 5143, the "Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016"

Hon. ANN WAGNER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER: Shelter Insurance is the largest domestic property and casualty insurance company in Missouri, writing more than \$1.6 billion in premium, and is home to almost 1,700 Missouri constituents/employees.

On behalf of Shelter Insurance Company, our agents, employees and mutual policyholders in Missouri, I am writing to ask for your help to defend the state-based system of insurance regulation. Congressman Luetkemeyer's bill, H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016, provides critically important checks and balances regarding negotiations on international insurance standards by requiring transparency, accountability, and consultation with Congress, and allowing for public input.

We ask that you please encourage Chairman Hensarling and House leadership to schedule a House vote on this legislation in September.

As you well know, the next few months are important when it comes to international insurance regulation. By the end of 2016, U.S. negotiators and their international counterparts are scheduled to meet behind closed doors around the globe approximately three dozen times to make strategic decisions on new international capital and regulatory standards. The U.S. is under pressure from international regulators to adopt their standards. These types of changes have the very real potential to drive up costs here at home in Missouri.

It is important that the U.S. defend its effective system of insurance regulation. Our U.S. negotiators should not agree to new standards that could eventually weaken U.S. consumer protections, reduce competition.

Again, our ask is that you please work with House leadership and the Financial Services Committee leadership and request a September House floor vote on H.R. 5143.

I thank you for your help on this bill and for your continued leadership on these efforts that are important to my company and many insurers around the United States.

Sincerely,

RICK MEANS,
President and CEO.
BRIAN WALLER,

Director of Government Relations.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I simply ask my colleagues to support this commonsense piece of legislation that instills transparency and accountability for our government when negotiating with their foreign counterparts.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri has 11½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

□ 1615

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman and his staff for the hard work that went into crafting this legislation, coordinating with the insurance industry and the diverse array of stakeholders and consumers.

Mr. Speaker, for about 150 years, the American insurance industry has been regulated at the State level. This has enabled the tailoring of regulations and business models to local circumstances for insurance companies of all types, structures, and sizes. This system has provided our domestic insurance industry a competitive advantage that benefits consumers and the market for insuring against risk. It is a superior model to the concentrated national champion insurance models of Europe.

Some of Dodd-Frank's policies threaten to upend this existing regulatory infrastructure by interjecting the Federal Government, and ultimately international regulators, into the oversight of the American insurance industry. Regardless of one's views on Federal oversight of insurance, I think we should all agree that

Congress should have a stake in this process and engage in robust oversight of any Federal or international standards.

The Transparent Insurance Standards Act achieves just that. The legislation sets clear objectives, or rules of the road, for the Federal Insurance Office and the Federal Reserve that must be met during negotiation and, ultimately, adoption of any international insurance standards or covered agreements.

The bill ensures that State insurance commissioners or their designees are directly involved in the negotiation process; and before adoption of such an international standard, the public and Congress must have access to the final text and the opportunity to provide comments.

FIO and the Fed would be required to file reports and come before Congress twice a year to brief us on the progress and implementation. If the standards include capital requirements, the Fed must have promulgated a domestic standard first, and this will prevent the tail wagging the dog that we have seen with other international financial standards.

These reforms and several other provisions ensure that, if the United States is going down the road of Federal and international insurance standards, the process is transparent, and Congress, the States, and the American people have a say in that process.

For these reasons, I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge its passage.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I believe this is my last speaker. Last but not least, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), an entrepreneur who understands the importance of our free enterprise system and how important it is for the insurance industry to be able to protect those interests of the free enterprise folks.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I think by now the secret is out the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act has been a complete failure.

For the last 6 years, in an effort to protect consumers, the Dodd-Frank Act has instead stifled job creation for millions of Americans with regulation after regulation. H.R. 5143, which I am a proud cosponsor of, aims to roll back one of the many unintended consequences forced upon U.S. insurers.

For 150 years, the State-based model, the American model, has been successful because it focused on one thing—the consumer. The U.S. State-based insurance regulatory system is unmatched by any insurance regulatory system in the world. It is important that U.S. insurers are not put at a competitive disadvantage worldwide and we continue to act in their interest.

H.R. 5143 requires Congress to conduct oversight of international con-

versations focused on insurance standards and establish a series of requirements to be met by our top negotiators at Treasury's Federal Insurance Office.

Furthermore, transparency and accountability is often lacking in international regulatory discussions, something that is fundamental to the State-based system. It is important that Congress takes every opportunity to open doors, not close doors, and allows all interested parties to participate in negotiations with our international counterparts. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will strongly encourage increased transparency and information sharing and bring to light the true objectives.

Just as Congress is routinely involved in international trade negotiations, this should be no different. It is important we work cooperatively and only agree to standards and agreements that benefit U.S. consumers and allow us to maintain a strong insurance marketplace.

Again, I want to thank Chairman LUETKEMEYER for his leadership and the work our committee has done to stand up for U.S. insurers and consumers. I strongly urge passage of this bill. In God we trust.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

The gentleman who just gave testimony indicated that the secret is out. I don't think he described the secret accurately, but let me just say it is out, and, just as Mr. HENSARLING said on the floor the other day, we ain't seen nothing yet. They are out to destroy Dodd-Frank, they are out to destroy the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and they keep coming forward, as they are doing today, to protect Wall Street.

I ask my colleagues to consider the great progress we have made since the enactment of Wall Street reform to fix the blind spots that prevented our regulators from seeing the big picture. Our U.S. financial system is increasingly complex, and the regulatory structure for the oversight of our system was fragmented before the financial crisis. This was particularly true of the insurance industry, which is regulated primarily by the States.

While our State-based system for insurance regulation has many strengths, by its very nature, it is ill-suited to address all of the issues related to large, globally active insurance companies. That is why Dodd-Frank, while continuing to recognize the primacy of State-based regulation, changed many of the ways in which the insurance industry is supervised for consolidated supervision and enhanced regulation.

If we take a look at AIG, of course, one cannot help but ask: What State regulated AIG; and why did we get into the problem that we got into with AIG? It was because of its London-based operation. That is why it is so important to have cooperation between the countries on these big insurance companies that are operating all over the world.

Let's remind everyone what this bill really does. It takes us backward. It says: forget about examining systemic risks across jurisdictions, and, instead, let's continue to leave the largest internationally active insurers in the world off the hook for any risk they may pose to our economy. Not the small, domestic insurers that engage in traditional activities, not the companies that make up such an important part of our economy in rural areas, and certainly not the insurers that had absolutely nothing to do with the financial crisis. We are talking about the biggest and most complex insurers that have operations all over the globe and pose risks to international financial stability.

This bill is not about transparency, as its title would suggest. It is about weakening oversight of these large firms and making it virtually impossible to agree to any kind of international insurance standard. This bill is also not about protecting policyholders. It is about burying our head in the sand and going back to the precrisis days where all of us, including policyholders, were vulnerable to a systemic failure.

So let's call this bill what it is. It is a giveaway to the insurance industry that is trying to escape more oversight. And let's not pretend that this bill would ensure a more unified U.S. posture on the international stage because, under the provisions of this bill, the U.S. will be severely crippled in its ability to negotiate on these issues, which means that the rest of the world will move forward while American interests get left behind.

What are we talking about? We are talking about capitalization. And if we are not willing to engage with other countries in this international community about these big insurance companies that are operating all over the world about capital standards, we are putting our own country at risk. The administration has already issued a strong veto threat for all of these reasons. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Let me share with you exactly what the administration is saying. "The restrictions that this legislation seeks to place on United States representatives in international insurance matters under H.R. 5143 would raise serious constitutional concerns and severely outweigh any potential attendant benefits.

"FIO, the Federal Reserve, and state insurance commissioners are all actively engaged at the IAIS and regularly coordinate with one another, ensuring that each aspect of the unique United States regulatory regime is adequately represented in any international negotiation. Despite their effective coordination and extensive work thus far to improve global insurance regulation, the restrictions which H.R. 5143 seeks to impose would stop this work in its tracks and would put in place cumbersome and counterproductive requirements. . . .

"Because this legislation seeks to tie the hands of U.S. representatives, in an unconstitutional manner, and prevent them from effectively negotiating on international insurance matters, the Administration strongly opposes H.R. 5143."

Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that my colleague, the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, promised me and threatened me and others that we ain't seen nothing yet, I think it is very clear about what is happening on the opposite side of the aisle and how Mr. HENSARLING and the committee are already carrying out the Trump agenda.

They are making sure that before we leave here on break everyone understands that they are not about to support Dodd-Frank in any shape, form, or fashion, but, rather, they are going to take every opportunity to undermine Dodd-Frank because they don't believe in reforming Wall Street.

Mr. Trump said that he was running for the United States President because he wanted to drain the swamp, but Mr. Trump and his leadership are already showing us that they intend to expand the swamp, that they are going to grow the swamp, that they are going to make sure that they have everybody from Wall Street, many of whom have already been fined, been accused of fraud, who are under investigation—somehow he is bringing them close to him, and I wonder why.

This legislation today basically tells you a story. It tells you a story that they are talking about. They are saying, in essence, that we, the United States of America, operate unto ourselves. Yes, we have these big firms, and we don't mind that they have big businesses in other countries, like AIG. We don't mind that they are operating internationally. We have State regulations, and our State regulations will take care of whatever our needs are for oversight of insurance.

But they can't tell you why that didn't happen with AIG. As a matter of fact, they don't mention AIG. They wish the story of AIG would just simply go away. They don't want the American people to be reminded of what happened with AIG that almost brought this country to its knees. They don't want to remind the people that we had to bail them out. They don't want to remind the people that they were undercapitalized, their credit default swaps were fraudulent, and they didn't have anything to back it up. So here we are, and they are asking the American people to ignore all of this, just forget all of this. We are out to protect those who certainly should not be protected.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Just to recap what we are doing here: We have a bill in front of us here that is basically trying to give leverage to Team USA, which are the representa-

tives from the United States, one of which was created by Dodd-Frank, to represent the United States insurance industry at the negotiating table with regards to the International Association of Insurance Supervisors. Now, this is a group of people from around the world that regulate insurance companies in each of these other countries.

Now, these regulators have a different set of rules and regulations and a different purpose from the standpoint that they regulate insurance at the national level in each one of these countries, where we in this country regulate insurance at the State level.

□ 1630

When the IAIS tries to promulgate rules and regulations, it is like trying to put a square peg in a round hole when they try and put those rules and regulations on our companies here. As a result, this bill is to try and give leverage to our negotiations so that doesn't happen and so they can protect our industry. In fact, the negotiators want this bill because they need that leverage to be able to go and say no to some of the standards that are being proposed so that they can protect our industry.

Now, I will give you a quick example. In my own State, we have a company that provides reinsurance in one of the countries in Europe. That country right now is trying to impose some new standards on that company to be able to do business there.

We need to have the regulators be able to go to the IAIS and say: Look, this is not working. You cannot impact and undermine our own companies in this country with these rules that do not work. They need to be on a level playing field with everybody else.

So this is a way that we can protect our companies and our industries and our consumers from this regulation that is basically out of control sometimes.

Mr. HUIZENGA made a great point. He said: Why would we allow unelected foreign regulators to tell our industry what to do? That is what we have got. We have got a group of bureaucrats from around the world who are trying to tell our companies, our insurance industry—it isn't one company; it is everybody in this country—what to do. They are not elected, but we are in this Congress. Shouldn't we put the people's representatives in charge of this?

Mr. PEARCE made that comment. These regulations need to be decided by the people's representatives. That is us. That is what this bill does. It puts us in charge of saying yes or no to whatever agreements are done over there.

Mr. BARR made the comment that we need to protect the insurance model of our industry. And that is what this does. We in the Congress can look and see if these rules and regulations will protect the industry.

It doesn't mean we throw them all out either. The underlying principle of

everything that the minority ranking member is talking about here is that we are going to throw out every regulation that is being proposed. No, this is not the case.

What we want to do is make sure the ones that are being proposed are okay and will not negatively impact our industry. The ones that are going to be helpful, we will support those. We will let them go through. That is up to Congress. We should be in charge of those decisions, not somebody else around this world.

Mr. WILLIAMS made a good point. He said this is kind of like a trade agreement. We approve all the trade agreements over in the other body, if I am not mistaken. Should we approve an agreement like this where we are going to impact an entire industry? I think so, Mr. Speaker.

Let me just move on to a couple of points that were made by a couple of folks during the discussion on the other side.

They talked about the pay-for in the bill. The pay-for in the bill actually comes from a slush fund of the SEC, which is overfunded at this point and that they are going to use less than 20 percent of that money this year. It is well paid for. It is well within the reason of being able to afford this, and it is not going to impact that regulator at all. So I think we are in great shape.

Somebody made the comment that the Fed does have the authority to make these rules. No, they don't. They don't have authority to make a rule across the board on all insurance companies in this country. That is not a true statement.

The statement was also made about the G-SIFIs and systemic institutions. This bill doesn't do anything to address G-SIFI designation. This bill is about protecting the IAIS, which is a supervisory body. It is not the Federal Stability Board. It is not the international board that decides all of these G-SIFI designations. This is the board that oversees the regulatory structure of insurance companies.

Somebody said it has constitutional concerns. If it has constitutional concerns, then you have just told me that Dodd-Frank is unconstitutional. That is all we are doing is dealing with what has gone on in Dodd-Frank when setting up the FIO office to try and give them the leverage and power they need to do something.

It is interesting because the ranking member last week was railing on a bill that we had on the floor about transparency and oversight of regulators. You know what? We listened to her. This bill today does that very thing. It adds to transparency, and we are providing oversight for the regulators. I would think she would be excited about this legislation and be willing to support it.

One other comment, Mr. Speaker, and I will close.

The ranking member keeps throwing AIG at us. That is a red-herring from

the standpoint that AIG is made up of two separate entities: one is an insurance company; one is the securities and investment company. The company that was in trouble was the securities and investment part. The insurance company stayed solid and solvent. That is not the one that was bailed out.

So, again, the point was made by one of my colleagues—Mr. DUFFY, I believe it was—that in 2008 our system worked. And he is correct; it did work. Our insurance industry in this country withstood one of the largest and most devastating recessions in history since the Great Depression, and it came out of it with very little negative problems that could impact the quality of insurance being provided for our citizens.

So, Mr. Speaker, let me just close by saying this bill does what we would hope that every bill would do in this Congress, and that is that it gives leverage to people who can do good to protect our industries and our people, our way of life and our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for general debate has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 PRINTED IN HOUSE REPORT
114-846 OFFERED BY MR. DESANTIS

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 11, before the period insert the following: "and that any such final standard is composed in plain writing (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note))".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 944, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, my amendment is very simple. It requires that any international agreement needs to be written in plain writing as a condition to enter into the agreement.

I am offering this from the perspective of people in Florida, my district, and elsewhere who are small businesses, who are small companies who can't afford to hire large legal teams simply to understand overly complex regulations. They are already beset with way too much, both in terms of the scope, but also in terms of the complexity; and when you have complex agreements or regulations imposed on them, it not only makes life difficult for them, it actually gives them a competitive disadvantage over some of the big companies that we are always hearing about.

So I think writing in plain language, clear and concise, makes it easier for small businesses to comply without amassing huge amounts in legal fees and other overhead costs.

Plain writing doesn't change the regulation. You can have a regulation. It

just requires it to be written in a way that doesn't require you to hire \$500-an-hour attorneys to interpret it for you. So I think it is a commonsense way to help small business with no taxpayer expense.

I would note that the need for plain writing has been something that the Congress, on both sides of the aisle, has embraced over decades.

I appreciate my friend from Missouri's bill. I intend to support it. I think this amendment will be added protection for those who are struggling to do well in an economy in which so much that comes out of Washington seems to be making it more difficult for them to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, this amendment requires that any final standard agreed to under the terms of this bill be composed in plain writing in accordance with the Plain Writing Act of 2010. That law basically requires that Federal agencies use "clear government communication that the public can understand and use."

As a matter of general policy, I think that makes good sense. We want the public to be able to understand the rules and regulations that impact their daily lives. When government regulations are difficult to comprehend, it undermines rather than enhances our goal of setting clear rules of the road and preventing misconduct. But no amount of clear communication or plain writing will improve the basic issues with the underlying bill.

Of course we support plain writing. I wish that all of us would adopt and carry out and implement the legislation that was passed, supported by both sides of the aisle, for plain writing, for plain English. I wish the State would do it with their propositions, et cetera. We all pay lip service to it, but then we come with the gobbledygook that the American public has to try and understand.

So, yes, I support plain writing. I support the public being able to understand what we do, but I don't want people to be confused. Plain writing has nothing to do with the basic issues in this underlying bill.

While I do not take issue with the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida, I continue to urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. It is a solution in search of a problem, one that certainly does not exist.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that this is an amendment that my friend from California can embrace.

I urge everyone to embrace it and would just urge people to support the amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended, and on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

The question is on the amendment by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by 5-minute votes on motions to suspend the rules with respect to H.R. 6076, S. 2971, and H.R. 5790, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 239, nays 170, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 613]

YEAS—239

Abraham	Crenshaw	Heck (NV)
Aderholt	Cuellar	Hensarling
Allen	Culberson	Herrera Beutler
Amash	Curbelo (FL)	Hice, Jody B.
Amodei	Davidson	Hill
Ashford	Davis, Rodney	Holding
Babin	Denham	Hudson
Barletta	Dent	Huelskamp
Barr	DeSantis	Huizenga (MI)
Barton	DesJarlais	Hultgren
Benishek	Diaz-Balart	Hunter
Bilirakis	Dold	Hurd (TX)
Bishop (MI)	Donovan	Issa
Bishop (UT)	Duffy	Jenkins (KS)
Black	Duncan (SC)	Jenkins (WV)
Blackburn	Duncan (TN)	Johnson (OH)
Blum	Ellmers (NC)	Johnson, Sam
Bost	Emmer (MN)	Jones
Boustany	Farenthold	Jordan
Brady (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Joyce
Brat	Fleischmann	Katko
Bridenstine	Fleming	Kelly (MS)
Brooks (AL)	Flores	Kelly (PA)
Brooks (IN)	Forbes	Kind
Buchanan	Fortenberry	King (IA)
Buck	Fox	King (NY)
Bucshon	Franks (AZ)	Kinzing (IL)
Burgess	Frelinghuysen	Kline
Byrne	Garrett	Knight
Calvert	Gibbs	Labrador
Carter (GA)	Gibson	LaHood
Carter (TX)	Gohmert	LaMalfa
Chabot	Goodlatte	Lamborn
Chaffetz	Gosar	Lance
Clawson (FL)	Gowdy	Latta
Coffman	Graves (GA)	LoBiondo
Cole	Graves (LA)	Long
Collins (GA)	Griffith	Loudermilk
Collins (NY)	Grothman	Love
Comer	Guinta	Lucas
Comstock	Guthrie	Luetkemeyer
Conaway	Hanna	Lummis
Cook	Hardy	MacArthur
Costello (PA)	Harper	Marchant
Cramer	Harris	Marino
Crawford	Hartzler	Massie

McCarthy	Posey
McCaul	Price, Tom
McClintock	Ratcliffe
McHenry	Reed
McKinley	Reichert
McMorris	Renacci
Rodgers	Ribble
McSally	Rice (SC)
Meadows	Rigell
Meehan	Roby
Messer	Roe (TN)
Mica	Rogers (AL)
Miller (FL)	Rogers (KY)
Moolenaar	Rohrabacher
Mooney (WV)	Rokita
Mullin	Rooney (FL)
Mulvaney	Ros-Lehtinen
Murphy (PA)	Ross
Neugebauer	Rothfus
Newhouse	Rouzer
Noem	Royce
Nugent	Russell
Nunes	Salmon
Olson	Sanford
Palazzo	Scalise
Palmer	Schweikert
Paulsen	Sensenbrenner
Pearce	Sessions
Perry	Shimkus
Peterson	Shuster
Pittenger	Simpson
Pitts	Smith (MO)
Poliquin	Smith (NE)
Pompeo	Smith (NJ)

NAYS—170

Adams	Fudge	Nadler
Aguilar	Gabbard	Napolitano
Bass	Gallego	Nolan
Beatty	Garamendi	Norcross
Becerra	Graham	O'Rourke
Bera	Grayson	Pallone
Beyer	Green, Al	Pascarell
Bishop (GA)	Green, Gene	Payne
Blumenauer	Grijalva	Pelosi
Bonamici	Gutierrez	Perlmutter
Boyle, Brendan	Hanabusa	Peters
F.	Hastings	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Heck (WA)	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Higgins	Polis
Bustos	Himes	Price (NC)
Butterfield	Hinojosa	Quigley
Capps	Honda	Rangel
Capuano	Hoyer	Richmond
Cárdenas	Huffman	Roybal-Allard
Carney	Jackson Lee	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Rush
Castor (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Sánchez, Linda
Cicilline	Keating	T.
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy	Schakowsky
Clay	Kildee	Schiff
Cleaver	Kilmer	Schrader
Cohen	Kuster	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Langevin	Scott, David
Conyers	Larsen (WA)	Sewell (AL)
Cooper	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Courtney	Lawrence	Sinema
Crowley	Levin	Sires
Cummings	Lewis	Slaughter
Davis (CA)	Lieu, Ted	Smith (WA)
Davis, Danny	Lipinski	Speier
DeFazio	Loeb sack	Swalwell (CA)
DeGette	Lofgren	Takano
Delaney	Lowenthal	Thompson (CA)
DeLauro	Lowe	Thompson (MS)
DeBene	Lujan Grisham	Titus
DeSaulnier	(NM)	Tonko
Deutch	Luján, Ben Ray	Torres
Dingell	(NM)	Tsongas
Doggett	Lynch	Vargas
Doyle, Michael	Maloney,	Veasey
F.	Carolyn	Vela
Duckworth	Maloney, Sean	Velázquez
Edwards	Matsui	Visclosky
Ellison	McCollum	Walz
Engel	McGovern	Waters, Maxine
Eshoo	McNerney	Watson Coleman
Esty	Meeks	Welch
Evans	Meng	Wilson (FL)
Farr	Moore	Yarmuth
Foster	Moulton	
Frankel (FL)	Murphy (FL)	

NOT VOTING—24

Brown (FL)	Clyburn	Fincher
Chu, Judy	Costa	Granger

Graves (MO)	Miller (MI)	Serrano
Hurt (VA)	Neal	Tiberi
Israel	Poe (TX)	Wasserman
Jolly	Rice (NY)	Schultz
Kirkpatrick	Roskam	Westmoreland
Lee	Sanchez, Loretta	
McDermott	Scott, Austin	

□ 1705

Mr. MESSER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TO RESEARCH, EVALUATE, ASSESS, AND TREAT ASTRONAUTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6076) to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of astronauts, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 614]

YEAS—413

Abraham	Byrne	Davis (CA)
Adams	Calvert	Davis, Danny
Aderholt	Capps	Davis, Rodney
Aguilar	Capuano	DeFazio
Allen	Cárdenas	DeGette
Amash	Carney	Delaney
Amodei	Carson (IN)	DeLauro
Ashford	Carter (GA)	DelBene
Babin	Carter (TX)	Denham
Barletta	Cartwright	Dent
Barr	Castor (FL)	DeSantis
Barton	Castro (TX)	DeSaulnier
Bass	Chabot	DesJarlais
Beatty	Chaffetz	Deutch
Becerra	Chu, Judy	Dingell
Benishek	Cicilline	Doggett
Bera	Clark (MA)	Dold
Beyer	Clarke (NY)	Donovan
Bilirakis	Clawson (FL)	Doyle, Michael
Bishop (GA)	Clay	F.
Bishop (MI)	Cleaver	Duckworth
Bishop (UT)	Coffman	Duffy
Black	Cohen	Duncan (SC)
Blackburn	Cole	Duncan (TN)
Blum	Collins (GA)	Edwards
Blumenauer	Collins (NY)	Ellison
Bonamici	Comer	Ellmers (NC)
Bost	Comstock	Emmer (MN)
Boustany	Conaway	Engel
Boyle, Brendan	Connolly	Eshoo
F.	Conyers	Esty
Brady (PA)	Cook	Evans
Brady (TX)	Cooper	Farenthold
Brat	Costello (PA)	Farr
Bridenstine	Courtney	Fitzpatrick
Brooks (AL)	Cramer	Fleischmann
Brooks (IN)	Crawford	Fleming
Brownley (CA)	Crenshaw	Flores
Buchanan	Crowley	Fortenberry
Buck	Cuellar	Foster
Bucshon	Culberson	Fox
Burgess	Cummings	Frankel (FL)
Bustos	Curbelo (FL)	Franks (AZ)
Butterfield	Davidson	Frelinghuysen

Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk

Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)

Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishke
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield

Brown (FL)
Clyburn
Costa
Diaz-Balart
Fincher
Forbes
Gabbard

NOT VOTING—20
Graves (MO)
Israel
Jolly
Kirkpatrick
Lee
McDermott
Miller (MI)

Poe (TX)
Roskam
Sanchez, Loretta
Serrano
Tiberi
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1713

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2971) to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 7, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 615]
YEAS—405

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguiar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishke
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield

Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings

Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farenthold
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx

Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo

Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)

Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—7

Amash	Massie	Sensenbrenner
Harris	Ribble	
Jones	Sanford	

NOT VOTING—21

Brat	Graves (MO)	Rush
Brown (FL)	Jolly	Sanchez, Loretta
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Serrano
Costa	Lee	Tiberi
Doyle, Michael	McDermott	Waters, Maxine
F.	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Fincher	Poe (TX)	
Forbes	Roskam	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1719

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 615.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5790) to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 0, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 616]

YEAS—404

Abraham	Boyle, Brendan	Chu, Judy
Adams	F.	Cicilline
Aderholt	Brady (PA)	Clark (MA)
Aguilar	Brady (TX)	Clarke (NY)
Allen	Brat	Clawson (FL)
Amash	Bridenstine	Clay
Amodei	Brooks (AL)	Cleaver
Ashford	Brooks (IN)	Coffman
Babin	Brownley (CA)	Cohen
Barletta	Buchanan	Cole
Barr	Buck	Collins (GA)
Barton	Bucshon	Collins (NY)
Bass	Burgess	Comer
Beatty	Bustos	Comstock
Becerra	Butterfield	Conaway
Benishek	Byrne	Connolly
Bera	Calvert	Conyers
Beyer	Capps	Cook
Bilirakis	Capuano	Cooper
Bishop (GA)	Cardenas	Costello (PA)
Bishop (MI)	Carney	Courtney
Bishop (UT)	Carson (IN)	Cramer
Black	Carter (GA)	Crawford
Blackburn	Carter (TX)	Crenshaw
Blum	Cartwright	Crowley
Blumenauer	Castor (FL)	Cuellar
Bonamici	Castro (TX)	Culberson
Bost	Chabot	Cummings
Boustany	Chaffetz	Curbelo (FL)

Davidson	Jenkins (KS)	Palazzo
Davis (CA)	Jenkins (WV)	Pallone
Davis, Danny	Johnson (GA)	Palmer
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (OH)	Pascarell
DeFazio	Johnson, E. B.	Paulsen
DeGette	Johnson, Sam	Payne
Delaney	Jones	Pearce
DeLauro	Jordan	Pelosi
DelBene	Joyce	Perlmutter
Denham	Kaptur	Perry
Dent	Katko	Peters
DeSantis	Keating	Peterson
DeSaulnier	Kelly (IL)	Pingree
DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	Pittenger
Deutsch	Kelly (PA)	Pitts
Diaz-Balart	Kennedy	Pocan
Dingell	Kildee	Poliquin
Doggett	Kilmer	Polis
Dold	Kind	Pompeo
Donovan	King (IA)	Posey
Duckworth	King (NY)	Price (NC)
Duffy	Kinzing (IL)	Price, Tom
Duncan (SC)	Kline	Quigley
Duncan (TN)	Knight	Rangel
Edwards	Kuster	Ratcliffe
Ellison	Labrador	Reed
Ellmers (NC)	LaHood	Reichert
Emmer (MN)	LaMalfa	Renacci
Engel	Lamborn	Ribble
Eshoo	Lance	Rice (NY)
Esty	Langevin	Rice (SC)
Evans	Larsen (WA)	Richmond
Farenthold	Larson (CT)	Rigell
Farr	Latta	Roby
Fitzpatrick	Lawrence	Roe (TN)
Fleischmann	Levin	Rogers (AL)
Fleming	Lewis	Rogers (KY)
Flores	Lieu, Ted	Rohrabacher
Fortenberry	Lipinski	Rokita
Foster	LoBiondo	Rooney (FL)
Fox	Loeb	Ros-Lehtinen
Frankel (FL)	Loebsack	Ross
Franks (AZ)	Loftgren	Rothfus
Frelinghuysen	Long	Rouzer
Fudge	Loudermilk	Royce
Gabbard	Love	Ruiz
Gallego	Lowenthal	Ruppersberger
Garamendi	Lowe	Russell
Garrett	Lucas	Ryan (OH)
Gibbs	Luetkemeyer	Salmon
Gibson	Lujan Grisham	Sánchez, Linda
Gohmert	(NM)	T.
Goodlatte	Lujan, Ben Ray	Sanford
Gosar	(NM)	Sarbanes
Gowdy	Lummis	Scalise
Graham	Lynch	Schakowsky
Granger	MacArthur	Schiff
Graves (GA)	Maloney,	Schweikert
Graves (LA)	Carolyn	Scott (VA)
Grayson	Maloney, Sean	Scott, Austin
Green, Al	Marchant	Scott, David
Green, Gene	Marino	Sensenbrenner
Griffith	Massie	Sessions
Grijalva	Matsui	Sewell (AL)
Grothman	McCarthy	Sherman
Guinta	McCaul	Shimkus
Guthrie	McClintock	Shuster
Gutiérrez	McCollum	Simpson
Hanabusa	McGovern	Sires
Hanna	McHenry	Slaughter
Hardy	McKinley	Smith (MO)
Harper	McMorris	Smith (NE)
Harris	Rodgers	Smith (WA)
Hartzler	McNerney	Speier
Hastings	McSally	Stefanik
Heck (NV)	Meadows	Stewart
Heck (WA)	Meehan	Stutzman
Hensarling	Meeks	Swalwell (CA)
Herrera Beutler	Meng	Takano
Hice, Jody B.	Messer	Thompson (CA)
Higgins	Mica	Thompson (MS)
Hill	Miller (FL)	Thompson (PA)
Himes	Moolenaar	Thornberry
Hinojosa	Mooney (WV)	Tipton
Holding	Moore	Titus
Honda	Moulton	Tonko
Hoyer	Mullin	Torres
Hudson	Mulvaney	Trott
Huelskamp	Murphy (FL)	Tsongas
Huffman	Murphy (PA)	Turner
Huizenga (MI)	Nadler	Upton
Hultgren	Napolitano	Valadao
Hunter	Neal	Van Hollen
Hurd (TX)	Neugebauer	Vargas
Hurt (VA)	Newhouse	Veasey
Israel	Noem	Visclosky
Issa	Norcross	Wagner
Jackson Lee	Nunes	Walberg
Jeffries	O'Rourke	Walden
	Olson	

Walker	Webster (FL)	Woodall
Walorski	Welch	Yarmuth
Walters, Mimi	Wenstrup	Yoder
Walz	Westerman	Yoho
Wasserman	Williams	Young (AK)
Schultz	Wilson (FL)	Young (IA)
Waters, Maxine	Wilson (SC)	Young (IN)
Watson Coleman	Wittman	Zeldin
Weber (TX)	Womack	Zinke

NOT VOTING—29

Brown (FL)	Lee	Schrader
Clyburn	McDermott	Serrano
Costa	Miller (MI)	Sinema
Doyle, Michael	Nolan	Smith (NJ)
F.	Nugent	Smith (TX)
Fincher	Poe (TX)	Stivers
Forbes	Roskam	Tiberi
Graves (MO)	Roybal-Allard	Vela
Jolly	Rush	Velázquez
Kirkpatrick	Sanchez, Loretta	Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1726

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 611 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 1219), 612 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended S. 3028), 613 (on passage of H.R. 5143), 614 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 6076), 615 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended House Amendment to S. 2971), and 616 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 5790) I did not cast my vote due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on all of the votes.

BETTER ONLINE TICKET SALES ACT OF 2016

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3183) to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3183

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Better Online Ticket Sales Act of 2016” or the “BOTS Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO CIRCUMVENTION OF TICKET ACCESS CONTROL MEASURES.

(a) CONDUCT PROHIBITED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for any person—

(A) to circumvent a security measure, access control system, or other technological control or measure on an Internet website or online service that is used by the ticket issuer to enforce posted event ticket purchasing limits or to maintain the integrity of posted online ticket purchasing order rules; or

(B) to sell or offer to sell any event ticket in interstate commerce obtained in violation of subparagraph (A) if the person selling or offering to sell the ticket either—

(i) participated directly in or had the ability to control the conduct in violation of subparagraph (A); or

(ii) knew or should have known that the event ticket was acquired in violation of subparagraph (A).

(2) EXCEPTION.—It shall not be unlawful under this section for a person to create or use any computer software or system—

(A) to investigate, or further the enforcement or defense, of any alleged violation of this section or other statute or regulation; or

(B) to engage in research necessary to identify and analyze flaws and vulnerabilities of measures, systems, or controls described in paragraph (1)(A), if these research activities are conducted to advance the state of knowledge in the field of computer system security or to assist in the development of computer security product.

(b) ENFORCEMENT BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of subsection (a) shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or a deceptive act or practice under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(C) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Federal Trade Commission under any other provision of law.

(c) ENFORCEMENT BY STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that an interest of the residents of the State has been or is threatened or adversely affected by the engagement of any person subject to subsection (a) in a practice that violates such subsection, the attorney general of the State may, as *parens patriae*, bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate district court of the United States—

(A) to enjoin further violation of such subsection by such person;

(B) to compel compliance with such subsection; and

(C) to obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation on behalf of such residents.

(2) RIGHTS OF FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(A) NOTICE TO FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the attorney general of a State shall notify the Commission in writing that the attorney general intends to bring a civil action under paragraph (1) not later than 10 days before initiating the civil action.

(ii) CONTENTS.—The notification required by clause (i) with respect to a civil action shall include a copy of the complaint to be filed to initiate the civil action.

(iii) EXCEPTION.—If it is not feasible for the attorney general of a State to provide the notification required by clause (i) before initiating a civil action under paragraph (1), the attorney general shall notify the Commission immediately upon instituting the civil action.

(B) INTERVENTION BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—The Commission may—

(i) intervene in any civil action brought by the attorney general of a State under paragraph (1); and

(ii) upon intervening—

(I) be heard on all matters arising in the civil action; and

(II) file petitions for appeal of a decision in the civil action.

(3) INVESTIGATORY POWERS.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prevent the attorney general of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the attorney general by the laws of the State to conduct investigations, to administer oaths or affirmations, or to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary or other evidence.

(4) PREEMPTIVE ACTION BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—If the Commission institutes a civil action or an administrative action with respect to a violation of subsection (a), the attorney general of a State may not, during the pendency of such action, bring a civil action under paragraph (1) against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission for the violation with respect to which the Commission instituted such action.

(5) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—

(A) VENUE.—Any action brought under paragraph (1) may be brought in—

(i) the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under section 1391 of title 28, United States Code; or

(ii) another court of competent jurisdiction.

(B) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action brought under paragraph (1), process may be served in any district in which the defendant—

(i) is an inhabitant; or

(ii) may be found.

(6) ACTIONS BY OTHER STATE OFFICIALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to civil actions brought by attorneys general under paragraph (1), any other consumer protection officer of a State who is authorized by the State to do so may bring a civil action under paragraph (1), subject to the same requirements and limitations that apply under this subsection to civil actions brought by attorneys general.

(B) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit an authorized official of a State from initiating or continuing any proceeding in a court of the State for a violation of any civil or criminal law of the State.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) EVENT.—The term “event” means any concert, theatrical performance, sporting event, show, or similarly scheduled activity, taking place in a venue with a seating or attendance capacity exceeding 200 persons that—

(A) is open to the general public; and

(B) is promoted, advertised, or marketed in interstate commerce or for which event tickets are generally sold or distributed in interstate commerce.

(3) EVENT TICKET.—The term “event ticket” means any physical, electronic, or other

form of a certificate, document, voucher, token, or other evidence indicating that the bearer, possessor, or person entitled to possession through purchase or otherwise has—

(A) a right, privilege, or license to enter an event venue or occupy a particular seat or area in an event venue with respect to one or more events; or

(B) an entitlement to purchase such a right, privilege, or license with respect to one or more future events.

(4) TICKET ISSUER.—The term “ticket issuer” means any person who makes event tickets available, directly or indirectly, to the general public, and may include—

(A) the operator of the venue;

(B) the sponsor or promoter of an event;

(C) a sports team participating in an event or a league whose teams are participating in an event;

(D) a theater company, musical group, or similar participant in an event; and

(E) an agent for any such person.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A CERTAIN CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1635

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 181

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill S. 1635, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) In section 113, in the proposed subsection (j)(1) of section 4 of the Foreign Service Buildings Act, 1926, strike “subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary may transfer to, and merge with, any appropriation for embassy security, construction, and maintenance such amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2018 for any other purpose related to the administration of foreign affairs on or after January 1, 2017, if the Secretary determines such transfer is necessary to provide for the security of sites and buildings in foreign countries under the jurisdiction and control of the Secretary” and insert “subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may transfer to, and merge with, any appropriation for fiscal year 2018 under the heading ‘Diplomatic and Consular Programs’, including for Worldwide Security Protection, and under the heading ‘Embassy Security, Construction, and Maintenance’ funds appropriated under such headings if the Secretary determines such transfer is necessary to implement the recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board, or to prevent or respond to security situations and requirements”.

(2) In section 113, in the proposed subsection (j) of section 4 of the Foreign Service Buildings Act, 1926, strike the proposed paragraph (2).

(3) In section 113, in the proposed subsection (j) of section 4 of the Foreign Service

Buildings Act, 1926, redesignate the proposed paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(4) In paragraph (7) of section 307, strike "Office of Inspector General of the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors" and insert "offices of inspectors general of relevant United Nations agencies".

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1730

REQUIRING A REGIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE THREAT POSED BY BOKO HARAM

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence be discharged from further consideration of the bill (S. 1632) to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1632

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REGIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE THREAT POSED BY BOKO HARAM.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a five-year strategy to help enable the Government of Nigeria, members of the Multinational Joint Task Force to Combat Boko Haram (MNJTF) authorized by the African Union, and relevant partners to counter the regional threat of Boko Haram and assist the Government of Nigeria and its neighbors to accept and address legitimate grievances of vulnerable populations in areas affected by Boko Haram.

(2) ELEMENTS.—At a minimum, the strategy must address the following elements:

(A) Enhance, pursuant to existing authorities and restrictions, the institutional capacity, including military capabilities, of the Government of Nigeria and partner nations in the region, as appropriate, to counter the threat posed by Boko Haram.

(B) Provide humanitarian support to civilian populations impacted by Boko Haram's activity.

(C) Specific activities through which the United States Government intends to improve and enhance the capacity of Multinational Joint Task Force to Combat Boko Haram partner nations to investigate and prosecute human rights abuses by security forces and promote respect for the rule of law within the military.

(D) A means for assisting Nigeria, and as appropriate, Multinational Joint Task Force to Combat Boko Haram nations, to counter violent extremism, including efforts to address underlying societal factors shown to contribute to the ability of Boko Haram to radicalize and recruit individuals.

(E) A plan to strengthen and promote the rule of law, including by improving the capacity of the civilian police and judicial system in Nigeria, enhancing public safety, and responding to crime (including gender-based violence), while respecting human rights and strengthening accountability measures, including measures to prevent corruption.

(F) Strengthen the long-term capacity of the Government of Nigeria to enhance security for schools such that children are safer and girls seeking an education are better protected, and to combat gender-based violence and gender inequality.

(G) Identify and develop mechanisms for coordinating the implementation of the strategy across the inter-agency and with the Government of Nigeria, regional partners, and other relevant foreign partners.

(H) Identify the resources required to achieve the strategy's objectives.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—The Director of National Intelligence shall submit, to the appropriate committees of Congress, an assessment regarding—

(1) the willingness and capability of the Government of Nigeria and regional partners to implement the strategy developed under subsection (a), including the capability gaps, if any, of the Government and military forces of Nigeria that would need to be addressed to enable the Government of Nigeria and the governments of its partner countries in the region—

(A) to counter the threat of Boko Haram; and

(B) to address the legitimate grievances of vulnerable populations in areas affected by Boko Haram; and

(2) significant United States intelligence gaps concerning Boko Haram or on the willingness and capacity of the Government of Nigeria and regional partners to implement the strategy developed under subsection (a).

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that lack of economic opportunity and access to education, justice, and other social services contributes to the ability of Boko Haram to radicalize and recruit individuals.

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to submit statements and extraneous materials for the RECORD on S. 1632.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

HOURLY OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the

House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on additional motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

VIETNAM HELICOPTER CREW MEMORIAL ACT

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4298) to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4298

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act".

SEC. 2. PLACEMENT OF MEMORIAL HONORING HELICOPTER PILOTS DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of section (c), the Secretary of the Army shall place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring helicopter pilots and crew members who served on active duty in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era.

(b) DESIGN.—The memorial placed under subsection (a) shall measure 4 feet in height, 5 feet in width, and 1 foot in depth, and shall be based on a design approved by the Secretary of the Army and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.

(c) AGREEMENT FOR UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary of the Army may only place a memorial under subsection (a) if the Secretary enters into an agreement with the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association under which the Association agrees to pay all costs necessary to construct, install, and maintain the memorial, and to such other provisions as the Secretary may require.

(d) APPROVAL OF SITE.—The Secretary of the Army shall approve an appropriate site within Arlington National Cemetery for the memorial under subsection (a) to be placed.

(e) WAIVER OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.—Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) shall not apply with respect to the memorial placed under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK) and the gentleman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4298, which directs the Department of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring helicopter pilots and crew members who served on Active Duty in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to think about the Vietnam war without thinking about the significant role both man and machinery played throughout the war effort. The helicopter was the mainstay for operational mobility, with approximately 12,000 helicopters used during the war by the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force.

These helicopters, flown by tremendously skilled pilots and manned by brave and competent crew chiefs, door gunners, and medics, brought a constant stream of troops and supplies to the battlefields and carried the wounded from the battlefields—all while operating under extreme conditions and at tremendous personal risk. Helicopter support to combat operations in Vietnam was not without significant loss. An estimated 5,000 helicopter pilots and crew members made the ultimate sacrifice during the war.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nevada for introducing this bill to permanently honor and remember the sacrifice by the extraordinary helicopter pilots and crew members who served in Vietnam by placing a memorial in their honor in Arlington National Cemetery. Therefore, I strongly urge all Members to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI), my friend and colleague and the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. AMODEI. I thank my colleague from the Silver State and also the ranking member from the subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I really shouldn't be here talking about this bill right now. The reason this bill was necessitated is that the public law says that the Secretary of the Army can have monuments placed only in those sections of Arlington National Cemetery that are designated by the Secretary for such placement and only on land that the Secretary deems not suitable for burial. There are about 30 million square feet at Arlington National Cemetery when you take the presently under-

construction addition and the planned additional constructed addition—30 million square feet. This bill seeks this amount of space out of 30 million square feet.

For those of you who are challenged by visual numbers, that is 5 square feet that they have asked for for all services—not just the Army but all services—and to commemorate the fact that they were nearly 10 percent of the casualties in the Vietnam war—the Helicopter war.

I understand graves to be the primary mission for Arlington National Cemetery, and I respect that. I understand that there is a concern about being overrun with requests for memorials, and I concur with that concern. My problem is that that public law doesn't say there will be no memorials at Arlington National Cemetery.

By the decision that the administration at Arlington has made that says you can't have 5 square feet, they have basically changed the law effectively to: there are no memorials. The high bar that there should be for memorials, in effect, has been set up there, touching the ceiling. If these folks—for all services and for nearly 10 percent of the casualties in the Vietnam war—can't qualify, I wonder who can. So the necessity for this legislation: 5 square feet.

By the way, in the last quarter of a century, do you know how many memorials have been approved for placement at Arlington? You don't need all of the fingers on one hand. Four. You need all of the fingers; you just don't need the thumb. Four. We are not overrun with memorials.

As we sit here on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor and as we talk again about some Vietnam veterans, isn't it funny that we now have to come to Congress and run a bill to respect those folks who, by the way, probably kept a heck of a lot more names off that wall a little farther down the Mall from here.

I thank the bipartisan support that I have received from Members in both Houses—nationwide support. My request is this: if we want to say “no more memorials at Arlington,” then we ought to say that in the law. We shouldn't talk about space not being available for graves, and we shouldn't talk about people who represent almost 10 percent of the casualties in a conflict not being entitled to 5 square feet. By the way, at no cost to the government and with maintenance at no cost to the government.

With that in hand, I urge bipartisan nationwide support to do the right thing for almost 5,000 people who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Helicopter war in the service, in these—what were then—cutting-edge iconic machines.

I thank my colleagues.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague stated, the service, commitment, and dedication of the heli-

copter pilots during the Vietnam war were critical to saving many lives. As somebody who was an Army flight surgeon, who spent hundreds of hours in the back of a helicopter, and who served as the chief of aeromedical evacuation for the 325th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq in 2008, I can personally attest to the dedication, bravery, and commitment of the helicopter pilots and of the crew members and what they do for our men and women in uniform. Therefore, I strongly urge the House to support this bill and provide this memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I include the following exchange of letters in the RECORD during consideration of H.R. 4298:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. “MAC” THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4298, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this committee's right to sequential referral. I do with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 4298 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you.

Sincerely,

JEFF MILLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2016.

Hon. JEFF MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4298, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act. As you noted, the bill contains subject matter that falls within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

I am most appreciative of your decision to waive formal consideration of H.R. 4298 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you waived formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. I will urge the Speaker to appoint Members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to any conference committee named to consider this legislation.

I will include a copy of our letters in the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. “MAC” THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4298.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOLOCAUST EXPROPRIATED ART RECOVERY ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6130) to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6130

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) It is estimated that the Nazis confiscated or otherwise misappropriated hundreds of thousands of works of art and other property throughout Europe as part of their genocidal campaign against the Jewish people and other persecuted groups. This has been described as the “greatest displacement of art in human history”.

(2) Following World War II, the United States and its allies attempted to return the stolen artworks to their countries of origin. Despite these efforts, many works of art were never reunited with their owners. Some of the art has since been discovered in the United States.

(3) In 1998, the United States convened a conference with 43 other nations in Washington, DC, known as the Washington Conference, which produced Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art. One of these principles is that “steps should be taken expeditiously to achieve a just and fair solution” to claims involving such art that has not been restituted if the owners or their heirs can be identified.

(4) The same year, Congress enacted the Holocaust Victims Redress Act (Public Law 105–158, 112 Stat. 15), which expressed the sense of Congress that “all governments should undertake good faith efforts to facilitate the return of private and public property, such as works of art, to the rightful owners in cases where assets were confiscated from the claimant during the period of Nazi rule and there is reasonable proof that the claimant is the rightful owner.”

(5) In 2009, the United States participated in a Holocaust Era Assets Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, with 45 other nations. At the conclusion of this conference, the participating nations issued the Terezin Declaration, which reaffirmed the 1998 Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art and urged all participants “to ensure that their legal systems or alternative processes, while taking into account the different legal traditions, facilitate just and fair solutions with regard to Nazi-confiscated and looted art, and to make certain that claims to recover such art are resolved

expeditiously and based on the facts and merits of the claims and all the relevant documents submitted by all parties.” The Declaration also urged participants to “consider all relevant issues when applying various legal provisions that may impede the restitution of art and cultural property, in order to achieve just and fair solutions, as well as alternative dispute resolution, where appropriate under law.”

(6) Victims of Nazi persecution and their heirs have taken legal action in the United States to recover Nazi-confiscated art. These lawsuits face significant procedural obstacles partly due to State statutes of limitations, which typically bar claims within some limited number of years from either the date of the loss or the date that the claim should have been discovered. In some cases, this means that the claims expired before World War II even ended. (See, e.g., *Detroit Institute of Arts v. Ullin*, No. 06–10333, 2007 WL 1016996 (E.D. Mich. Mar. 31, 2007).) The unique and horrific circumstances of World War II and the Holocaust make statutes of limitations especially burdensome to the victims and their heirs. Those seeking recovery of Nazi-confiscated art must painstakingly piece together their cases from a fragmentary historical record ravaged by persecution, war, and genocide. This costly process often cannot be done within the time constraints imposed by existing law.

(7) Federal legislation is needed because the only court that has considered the question held that the Constitution prohibits States from making exceptions to their statutes of limitations to accommodate claims involving the recovery of Nazi-confiscated art. In *Von Saher v. Norton Simon Museum of Art*, 592 F.3d 954 (9th Cir. 2009), the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit invalidated a California law that extended the State statute of limitations for claims seeking recovery of Holocaust-era artwork. The Court held that the law was an unconstitutional infringement of the Federal Government’s exclusive authority over foreign affairs, which includes the resolution of war-related disputes. In light of this precedent, the enactment of a Federal law is necessary to ensure that claims to Nazi-confiscated art are adjudicated in accordance with United States policy as expressed in the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, the Holocaust Victims Redress Act, and the Terezin Declaration.

(8) While litigation may be used to resolve claims to recover Nazi-confiscated art, it is the sense of Congress that the private resolution of claims by parties involved, on the merits and through the use of alternative dispute resolution such as mediation panels established for this purpose with the aid of experts in provenance research and history, will yield just and fair resolutions in a more efficient and predictable manner.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) To ensure that laws governing claims to Nazi-confiscated art and other property further United States policy as set forth in the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, the Holocaust Victims Redress Act, and the Terezin Declaration.

(2) To ensure that claims to artwork and other property stolen or misappropriated by the Nazis are not unfairly barred by statutes of limitations but are resolved in a just and fair manner.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ACTUAL DISCOVERY.**—The term “actual discovery” means knowledge.

(2) **ARTWORK OR OTHER PROPERTY.**—The term “artwork or other property” means—

(A) pictures, paintings, and drawings;

(B) statuary art and sculpture;

(C) engravings, prints, lithographs, and works of graphic art;

(D) applied art and original artistic assemblages and montages;

(E) books, archives, musical objects and manuscripts (including musical manuscripts and sheets), and sound, photographic, and cinematographic archives and mediums; and

(F) sacred and ceremonial objects and Judaica.

(3) **COVERED PERIOD.**—The term “covered period” means the period beginning on January 1, 1933, and ending on December 31, 1945.

(4) **KNOWLEDGE.**—The term “knowledge” means having actual knowledge of a fact or circumstance or sufficient information with regard to a relevant fact or circumstance to amount to actual knowledge thereof.

(5) **NAZI PERSECUTION.**—The term “Nazi persecution” means any persecution of a specific group of individuals based on Nazi ideology by the Government of Germany, its allies or agents, members of the Nazi Party, or their agents or associates, during the covered period.

SEC. 5. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law or any defense at law relating to the passage of time, and except as otherwise provided in this section, a civil claim or cause of action against a defendant to recover any artwork or other property that was lost during the covered period because of Nazi persecution may be commenced not later than 6 years after the actual discovery by the claimant or the agent of the claimant of—

(1) the identity and location of the artwork or other property; and

(2) a possessory interest of the claimant in the artwork or other property.

(b) **POSSIBLE MISIDENTIFICATION.**—For purposes of subsection (a)(1), in a case in which the artwork or other property is one of a group of substantially similar multiple artworks or other property, actual discovery of the identity and location of the artwork or other property shall be deemed to occur on the date on which there are facts sufficient to form a substantial basis to believe that the artwork or other property is the artwork or other property that was lost.

(c) **PREEXISTING CLAIMS.**—Except as provided in subsection (e), a civil claim or cause of action described in subsection (a) shall be deemed to have been actually discovered on the date of enactment of this Act if—

(1) before the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) a claimant had knowledge of the elements set forth in subsection (a); and

(B) the civil claim or cause of action was barred by a Federal or State statute of limitations; or

(2)(A) before the date of enactment of this Act, a claimant had knowledge of the elements set forth in subsection (a); and

(B) on the date of enactment of this Act, the civil claim or cause of action was not barred by a Federal or State statute of limitations.

(d) **APPLICABILITY.**—Subsection (a) shall apply to any civil claim or cause of action that is—

(1) pending in any court on the date of enactment of this Act, including any civil claim or cause of action that is pending on appeal or for which the time to file an appeal has not expired; or

(2) filed during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2026.

(e) **EXCEPTION.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any civil claim or cause of action barred on the day before the date of enactment of this Act by a Federal or State statute of limitations if—

(1) the claimant or a predecessor-in-interest of the claimant had knowledge of the elements set forth in subsection (a) on or after January 1, 1999; and

(2) not less than 6 years have passed from the date such claimant or predecessor-in-interest acquired such knowledge and during which time the civil claim or cause of action was not barred by a Federal or State statute of limitations.

(f) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to create a civil claim or cause of action under Federal or State law.

(g) **SUNSET.**—This Act shall cease to have effect on January 1, 2027, except that this Act shall continue to apply to any civil claim or cause of action described in subsection (a) that is pending on January 1, 2027. Any civil claim or cause of action commenced on or after that date to recover artwork or other property described in this Act shall be subject to any applicable Federal or State statute of limitations or any other Federal or State defense at law relating to the passage of time.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. **GOODLATTE**) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. **COHEN**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **GOODLATTE.** Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 6130, currently under consideration.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. **GOODLATTE.** Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

From 1933, when Hitler took power in Germany, until 1945, when the Allied Forces liberated Europe, the Nazis and their collaborators stole countless works of art and cultural objects from museums and private collections throughout Europe.

Indeed, according to the American Alliance of Museums, the Nazi regime orchestrated a system of theft, confiscation, coercive transfer, looting, pillage, and the destruction of objects of art and other cultural property in Europe on a massive and an unprecedented scale. Millions of such objects were unlawfully and often forcibly taken from their rightful owners. This systematic looting and confiscation of the cultural property of the Jews and of other persecuted groups has been described as the greatest displacement of art in human history.

In order to provide the victims of the Holocaust and their heirs a fair opportunity in our courts to recover artwork that had been confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis, Representative **NADLER** and I, along with several other bipartisan cosponsors, introduced the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act, or **HEAR Act**. Companion legislation has been introduced by Senators **CORNYN** and **SCHUMER** in the Senate.

Since World War II ended, the United States has pursued policies to help Holocaust victims reclaim artwork and other cultural property that was unlawfully taken.

In recent years, the United States has joined with other nations to declare the importance of restoring Nazi-looted and confiscated art to its rightful owners. For instance, in the 1998 Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, the United States and 43 other nations declared that Holocaust victims and their heirs should be encouraged to come forward and make known their claims to art that was confiscated by the Nazis and not subsequently restituted and that steps should be taken expeditiously to achieve a just and fair solution to such claims.

In 2009, we joined with 48 other countries in declaring that governments should ensure that their legal systems facilitate just and fair solutions with regard to Nazi-confiscated and looted art and make certain that the claims to recover such art are resolved expeditiously and based on the facts and merits of the claims.

The enactment of the **HEAR Act** is an important step in following through on these principles. The vast majority of victims whose property was misappropriated during the Holocaust simply lacked the information, resources, and sometimes wherewithal to pursue litigation to recover their property. Even for those with the resources, locating and proving ownership of Nazi-looted art proved to be extremely difficult. Moreover, the psychological trauma of the Holocaust often prevented victims from pursuing lost property.

Those who have seen the recent movie “Woman in Gold,” which tells the story of Maria Altmann’s arduous legal battle to recover her family’s possessions that were seized by the Nazis, including the famous portrait of her aunt by Gustav Klimt, can understand just how difficult litigation to reclaim Nazi-confiscated art can be.

□ 1745

Ms. Altmann was in litigation for many years before her family’s artwork was recovered from the Austrian Government in 2006. At least in Ms. Altmann’s case, litigation was successful.

However, as the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has observed: “Many obstacles face those who attempt to recover Holocaust-era art through lawsuits,” including “procedural hurdles, such as statutes of limitations” that prevent the merits of claims from ever being adjudicated.

Given the unique and horrific circumstances of World War II and the Holocaust, State statutes of limitations can be an unfair impediment to the victims and their heirs and contrary to the stated policy of the United States.

Accordingly, the **HEAR Act’s** uniform, 6-year Federal limitations period

is needed to ensure that the United States fulfills its promises to “facilitate just and fair solution with regard to Nazi-confiscated and looted art” and to “make certain that claims to recover such art are resolved expeditiously and based on the facts and merits of the claims.”

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that cases involving Nazi-confiscated artwork are resolved in our courts in a just and fair manner on the merits of those claims.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. **COHEN.** Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the work Mr. **CONYERS**, the ranking member, has done on this bill; Mr. **GOODLATTE**, the chairman and the sponsor; and Mr. **NADLER**, our Democratic colead.

I rise in support of H.R. 6130, the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016. H.R. 6130 creates a new 6-year Federal statute of limitations for civil claims filed in Federal or State court to allow a claimant to recover artwork and other cultural property that was stolen, seized, sold under duress, or otherwise lost as a result of Nazi persecution during the period from January 1, 1933, to December 31, 1945.

The bill provides that this limitation period begins upon a claimant’s “actual discovery” of the identity and location of the art that was unlawfully lost, and information or facts sufficient to indicate that the claimant has a possessory interest in the art.

In addition, the bill specifies that this new limitations period applies to cases filed prior to December 31, 2026. Finally, the bill’s provisions sunset on January 1, 2027.

The new Federal limitations period established by H.R. 6130 is necessary because State statutes of limitations often bar claims if they are not filed within some specified number of years from the date of the loss.

For Holocaust-era claims concerning stolen art, this means that most statutes of limitations would bar cases even before victims are able to have actual knowledge of whether their art or other cultural property had been stolen by the Nazis and been located and still was present.

Importantly, H.R. 6130 restores the claims that were barred by existing State statutes of limitations by deeming the bill’s date of enactment as the moment of “actual discovery” for purposes of triggering the bill’s new 6-year limitations period.

This critical legislation reinforces longstanding American policy, encouraging restitution for victims of the Nazi government or its allies and agents, including with respect to Nazi-confiscated or looted art.

As recently as this morning, a feature article was in *The New York Times*: “Jewish Dealer’s Heirs File Suit Over Art in Bavarian State Collection.” Indeed, that case is about the facts, but it shows that there are still

active cases where it has been discovered that there was art that was owned by Jewish people that was taken by others and put in the hands of the Nazis, and there is an issue about whether or not there is a right to recovery.

This would guarantee that those people who discover art—and this art was discovered some person's house that had been hidden for years in a person's house behind walls, and all of this valuable art that had been stolen and hidden was only discovered about 3 years ago—that the rightful owners, or heirs to the owners, would have a right in American courts to pursue justice.

In recognition of the Nazi government's deliberate campaign to steal artwork and other cultural property from its victims, H.R. 6130 rightfully ensures victims are given a chance to have their day in court to pursue justice.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes and 36 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6130, the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act. This legislation will help restore artwork and heritage stolen by the Nazis during the Holocaust to the rightful owners or heirs.

I was proud to join Chairman GOODLATTE in introducing this bill, and I appreciate his efforts in moving it forward.

In addition to their crimes of genocide and mass murder, the Nazis engaged in comprehensive, systemic theft of art and property mostly, but not entirely, from Jews all across Europe. The scope of their theft was massive, and the damaging effects remain with us today, with victims still seeking justice and some form of compensation.

Nearly 20 years ago, in 1998, the United States brought together 44 nations to produce a set of principles on Nazi confiscated art. They agreed that steps should be taken expeditiously to achieve a just and fair solution to the outstanding claims.

In 2009, the United States joined 45 other nations in Prague to issue what was known as the Terezin Declaration, which reaffirmed these principles.

Unfortunately, today, 71 years after the defeat of the Nazis and the liberation of Europe, many American victims are still unable to pursue their claims in court because of restrictive statutes of limitations in the States. These laws generally require a claimant to bring a case within a limited number of years from when the loss occurred or should have been discovered; but in many instances, the information required to file a claim regarding artwork stolen

by the Nazis was not brought to light until many years later, forcing courts to dismiss cases before they could be judged on the merits. In some cases, the law would have required a claim to be brought even before World War II ended. This is obviously unjust.

Some States have attempted to make an exception to their statutes of limitations to accommodate these claims, but such efforts have been ruled unconstitutional, as an infringement on the Federal Government's exclusive authority over foreign affairs. Federal legislation, therefore, is needed to bring justice to this area.

This bill would set a uniform 6-year Federal statute of limitations for the claims of Nazi-confiscated art from the time that the identity and location of the artwork and the ownership interests of the claimant are actually discovered. It would also restore the claims of those claimants whose cases were dismissed previously because of a statute of limitations.

This bill would finally ensure that the rightful owners and their decedents can have their claims properly adjudicated.

I thank Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, for his determined efforts to see that this issue is resolved; and Chairman GOODLATTE for working with me and our colleagues to bring this legislation forward.

While no legislation or act of contrition will ever reverse the many horrors committed by the Nazis, one thing we can do is establish a fair judicial process so that some victims can achieve some small measure of justice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support for this legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers and I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the carrier of the spirit of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the manager, Mr. COHEN; the chairman of the committee; both sponsors; the lead sponsor, Mr. NADLER of New York; and I thank the ranking member, Mr. CONYERS.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 6130, the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016. I am very grateful that my colleagues have brought this to the attention of the House. This important legislation tries to bring some remedy and solace to a devastating era of genocide, the Holocaust. It provides the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and genocide and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis, and there were many.

People wishing to claim ownership of art lost or confiscated during the Holocaust would have the proper time necessary to do so under H.R. 6130. The bill would apply to art and other antiquities, such as books, that were stolen

from Jewish people and other persecuted groups by the German Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945.

In the times that I visited Israel, I have spent much time in the Holocaust Museum, as I have spent time in the Holocaust exhibit and tribute here in Washington, and our own Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas.

I have been on the advisory board of the Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas, and have participated in the Holocaust ceremonies here.

This is a very important legal remedy. While the United States is a signatory of the 2009 Terezin Declaration, which states legal systems can facilitate claims of ownership of items lost during the Holocaust, the claims of potential owners in the U.S. have, however, faced barriers because of State statutes of limitation, which in some cases would have expired even before the end of World War II.

Under this legislation, individuals would have as much as 6 years from the time they discover the identity and location of a piece of art or other property or learned that they may have ownership of such art or property to file an ownership claim.

The bill's findings would express the sense of Congress that setting one Federal statute of limitations will allow claims to be settled through alternative dispute resolution methods that will produce more just and fair outcomes.

The actual bottom line of this legislation, as we were able to see in the Academy Award-winning actress in the film "Woman in Gold," which many of us saw, is that it is a fair and just relief for those so persecuted.

What more can be taken from you—your life, your liberty, your lost loved ones—and then those special artifacts, antiquities that would bring back the memories of your family and your history?

This legislation is well needed. It is a relief for those who are in pain. I support and ask my colleagues to support the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6130, the "Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016".

I thank our colleague, Chairman GOODLATTE for his work in guiding this legislation through the people's House.

This legislation provides the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and genocide and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

People wishing to claim ownership of art lost or confiscated during the Holocaust would have the proper time necessary to do so under H.R. 6130.

The bill would apply to art and other antiquities, such as books, that were stolen from Jewish people and other persecuted groups by the German Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945.

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potential owners in the U.S. have, however, faced barriers because of state statutes of limitation, which in some cases would have expired even before the end of World War II.

In a 2009 case, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that a law in California that sought to extend the statute of limitations for Holocaust art recovery infringed on federal authority over foreign affairs.

Under this legislation, individuals would have as many as six years from the time they discovered the identity and location of a piece of art or other property, or learned that they may have ownership of such art or property, to file an ownership claim.

The bill's findings would express the sense of Congress that setting one federal statute of limitations will allow claims to be settled through alternative dispute resolution methods that will produce more just and fair outcomes.

Pre-existing claims would be considered discovered on the date of the bill's enactment, including claims that had previously been barred by federal or state statutes of limitation.

While we can never erase the horrors of the Holocaust from human history, we can do our part to bring these treasures back to the families of those who suffered and sacrificed so much during that dark time.

I join the American Society of Appraisers, B'nai B'rith International, the Federal Bar Association, the World Jewish Congress, and the World Jewish Restitution Organization in supporting this important legislation.

Academy Award-winning actress Helen Mirren, who starred in the 2015 film "Woman in Gold," about the real life Maria Altmann's fight to reclaim a painting taken from her family during this horrific atrocity, has pledged her support as well, testifying on behalf of companion bi-partisan legislation introduced in the Senate Judiciary Committee by the Senior Senator from Texas, my friend JOHN CORNYN.

We know there are many cases that still cry out for justice.

For 75 years, since the start of World War II, these unremedied claims have seared festering wounds into the lives of brave survivors and their families.

This legislation will finally allow us to celebrate the heirlooms and artifacts of varied heritage that stitch together the diversity of American culture with the thread of age-old and integral property rights we still cherish today.

The legislation before us is intended to help us remove that stain once and for all.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This legislation is supported by many, including the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith International, the Commission for Art Recovery, the World Jewish Congress, the World Jewish Restitution Organization, and the Association of Art Museum Directors.

I do applaud Chairman GOODLATTE and Mr. NADLER for their work on this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Just kind of parenthetically, I watched a movie called "Race," which was put out last fall, about Jesse Owens. It was a movie about the 1936 Olympics and how Hitler didn't want him to participate and how there were

two Jewish runners who were supposed to participate and they were scratched by our American Olympic chairman because he didn't want the Jewish men to run in front of Hitler and win—because they would have—and the Americans won by a large amount of space and time, and that was not allowed.

Things that happened there should never be forgotten. Elie Wiesel was remembered at the Holocaust Museum recently, after he passed earlier this year. He told us that we can never forget, and we always should bear witness.

We should bear witness and remember and try to do justice for the victims of the Holocaust, as we should to the people who have been disenfranchised and damaged and hurt by our periods of Jim Crow and slavery. Keep us attuned and aware and alert.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation. I commend my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as well as Members on this side of the aisle, for their bipartisan spirit in passing this.

This will only do a small thing relative to trying to right the wrongs of the history of the Nazi regime, but it is an important step in that process. I strongly support the bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6130, the "Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016."

This bill creates a new uniform Federal 6-year statute of limitations for Nazi-stolen artwork and other cultural property and would allow Nazi-era stolen art claims currently barred by existing statutes of limitations to proceed in court. It also makes clear that the statute of limitations begins only after a claimant makes an actual discovery of his or her claim to artwork of disputed provenance.

Victims of Nazi theft of artwork deserve access to the courts so that they can try to get some justice for the wrongs committed against them. This bill is critical to giving them that chance. The Nazis were notorious for, among other things, stealing hundreds of thousands of artworks from Europe during their reign of terror in the 1930's and 1940's, in what has been described as the greatest displacement of art in human history.

The American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith International, and the Association of Art Museum Directors, among others, support this bill.

While nothing we do can ever fully compensate victims of the Nazis, we can at least take this modest step towards helping those victims get some measure of restitution.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6130.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2028, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 612, GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-849) on the resolution (H. Res. 949) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 612) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse", which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

□ 1800

KEVIN AND AVONTE'S LAW OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4919) to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4919

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016".

TITLE I—MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Missing Americans Alert Program Act of 2016".

SEC. 102. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181) is amended—

(1) in the section header, by striking "ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT" and inserting "AMERICANS"; and

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) GRANT PROGRAM TO REDUCE INJURY AND DEATH OF MISSING AMERICANS WITH DEMENTIA AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.—Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, the Attorney General, through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services—

“(1) shall award competitive grants to health care agencies, State and local law enforcement agencies, or public safety agencies and nonprofit organizations to assist such entities in planning, designing, establishing, or operating locally based, proactive programs to prevent wandering and locate missing individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments, including programs that—

“(A) provide prevention and response information, including online training resources, and referrals to families or guardians of such individuals who, due to their condition, wander from a safe environment;

“(B) provide education and training, including online training resources, to first responders, school personnel, clinicians, and the public in order to—

“(i) increase the safety and reduce the incidence of wandering of persons, who, due to their dementia or developmental disabilities, may wander from safe environments;

“(ii) facilitate the rescue and recovery of individuals who, due to their dementia or developmental disabilities, wander from safe environments; and

“(iii) recognize and respond to and appropriately interact with endangered missing individuals with dementia or developmental disabilities who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments;

“(C) provide prevention and response training and emergency protocols for school administrators, staff, and families or guardians of individuals with dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, to help reduce the risk of wandering by such individuals; and

“(D) develop, operate, or enhance a notification or communications systems for alerts, advisories, or dissemination of other information for the recovery of missing individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or with developmental disabilities, such as autism; and

“(2) shall award grants to health care agencies, State and local law enforcement agencies, or public safety agencies to assist such agencies in designing, establishing, and operating locative tracking technology programs for individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or children with developmental disabilities, such as autism, who have wandered from safe environments.”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “competitive” after “to receive a”;

(B) by inserting “agency or” before “organization” each place it appears; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: “The Attorney General shall periodically solicit applications for grants under this section by publishing a request for applications in the Federal Register and by posting such a request on the website of the Department of Justice.”; and

(4) by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

“(c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under subsection (a)(1), the Attorney General shall give preference to law enforcement or public safety agencies that partner with nonprofit organizations that appropriately use person-centered plans minimizing restrictive interventions and that have a direct link to individuals, and families of individuals, with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

“(e) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.—All grants awarded by the Attorney General under this section shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

“(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘unresolved audit finding’ means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

“(B) AUDITS.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this section to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

“(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this section that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this section during the first 2 fiscal years beginning after the end of the 12-month period described in subparagraph (A).

“(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible applicants that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this section.

“(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded grant funds under this section during the 2-fiscal-year period during which the entity is barred from receiving grants under subparagraph (C), the Attorney General shall—

“(i) deposit an amount equal to the amount of the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

“(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

“(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) DEFINITION OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—For purposes of this paragraph and the grant programs under this part, the term ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

“(B) PROHIBITION.—The Attorney General may not award a grant under this part to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a grant under this section and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees, shall disclose to the Attorney General, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Attorney General shall make the information disclosed under this subparagraph available for public inspection.

“(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

“(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts made available to the Department of Justice under this section may be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or entity awarded

discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this section, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than \$20,000 in funds made available by the Department of Justice, unless the head of the relevant agency or department, provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host the conference.

“(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food, beverages, audio-visual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and entertainment.

“(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all conference expenditures approved under this paragraph.

“(4) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall submit, to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, an annual certification—

“(A) indicating whether—

“(i) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General under paragraph (1) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director;

“(ii) all mandatory exclusions required under paragraph (1)(C) have been issued; and

“(iii) all reimbursements required under paragraph (1)(E) have been made; and

“(B) that includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under paragraph (1) from the previous year.

“(f) PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Attorney General awards a grant to an applicant under this section, the Attorney General shall compare potential grant awards with other grants awarded by the Attorney General to determine if grant awards are or have been awarded for a similar purpose.

“(2) REPORT.—If the Attorney General awards grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

“(A) a list of all such grants awarded, including the total dollar amount of any such grants awarded; and

“(B) the reason the Attorney General awarded multiple grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose.”.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and every year thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the Missing Americans Alert Program, as amended by subsection (a), which shall address—

(1) the number of individuals who benefited from the Missing Americans Alert Program, including information such as the number of individuals with reduced unsafe wandering, the number of people who were trained through the program, and the estimated number of people who were impacted by the program;

(2) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that applied for funding under the Missing Americans Alert Program;

(3) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that received funding under the Missing Americans Alert Program, including—

(A) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that used such funding for training; and

(B) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that used such funding for designing, establishing, or operating locative tracking technology;

(4) the companies, including the location (city and State) of the headquarters and local offices of each company, for which their locative tracking technology was used by State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies;

(5) the nonprofit organizations, including the location (city and State) of the headquarters and local offices of each organization, that State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies partnered with and the result of each partnership;

(6) the number of missing children with autism or another developmental disability with wandering tendencies or adults with Alzheimer's being served by the program who went missing and the result of the search for each such individual; and

(7) any recommendations for improving the Missing Americans Alert Program.

(c) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents in section 2 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 is amended by striking the item relating to section 240001 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 240001. Missing Americans Alert Program.”.

TITLE II—EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

SEC. 201. ACTIVITIES BY THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

Section 404(b)(1)(H) of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773(b)(1)(H)) is amended by inserting “, including cases involving children with developmental disabilities such as autism” before the semicolon.

TITLE III—PRIVACY PROTECTIONS

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **CHILD.**—The term “child” means an individual who is less than 18 years of age.

(2) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given that term in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

(3) **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**—The term “law enforcement agency” means an agency of a State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe that is authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(4) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(5) **UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**—The term “unit of local government” means a county, municipality, town, township, village, parish, borough, or other unit of general government below the State level.

(6) **NON-INVASIVE AND NON-PERMANENT.**—The term “non-invasive and non-permanent” means, with regard to any technology or device, that the procedure to install the technology or device does not create an external or internal marker or implant a device or other trackable items.

SEC. 302. STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR USE OF NON-INVASIVE AND NON-PERMANENT TRACKING DEVICES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and leading research, advocacy, self-advocacy, and service organizations, shall establish standards and best practices relating to the use of non-invasive and non-permanent tracking technology, where a guardian or parent, in consultation with the individual's health care provider, has determined that a non-invasive and non-permanent tracking device is the least restrictive alternative, to locate individuals as described in subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In establishing the standards and best practices required under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall—

(A) determine—

(i) the criteria used to determine which individuals would benefit from the use of a tracking device;

(ii) the criteria used to determine who should have direct access to the tracking system; and

(iii) which non-invasive and non-permanent types of tracking devices can be used in compliance with the standards and best practices; and

(B) establish standards and best practices the Attorney General determines are necessary to the administration of a tracking system, including procedures to—

(i) safeguard the privacy of the data used by the tracking device such that—

(I) access to the data is restricted to law enforcement and health agencies determined necessary by the Attorney General; and

(II) collection, use, and retention of the data is solely for the purpose of preventing injury or death to the patient assigned the tracking device or caused by the patient assigned the tracking device;

(ii) establish criteria to determine whether use of the tracking device is the least restrictive alternative in order to prevent risk of injury or death before issuing the tracking device, including the previous consideration of less restrictive alternatives;

(iii) provide training for law enforcement agencies to recognize signs of abuse during interactions with applicants for tracking devices;

(iv) protect the civil rights and liberties of the individuals who use tracking devices, including their rights under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(v) establish a complaint and investigation process to address—

(I) incidents of noncompliance by recipients of grants under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, with the best practices established by the Attorney General or other applicable law; and

(II) use of a tracking device over the objection of an individual; and

(vi) determine the role that State agencies should have in the administration of a tracking system.

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The standards and best practices established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall take effect 90 days after publication of such standards and practices by the Attorney General, unless Congress enacts a joint resolution disapproving of the standards and practices.

(b) **REQUIRED COMPLIANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each entity that receives a grant under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, shall comply with any standards and best practices relating to the

use of tracking devices established by the Attorney General in accordance with subsection (a).

(2) **DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.**—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall determine whether an entity that receives a grant under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, acts in compliance with the requirement described in paragraph (1).

(c) **APPLICABILITY OF STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES.**—The standards and best practices established by the Attorney General under subsection (a) shall apply only to the grant programs authorized under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act.

(d) **LIMITATIONS ON PROGRAM.**—

(1) **DATA STORAGE.**—Any tracking data provided by tracking devices issued under this program may not be used by a Federal entity to create a database.

(2) **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.**—Nothing in this Act may be construed to require that a parent or guardian use a tracking device to monitor the location of a child or adult under that parent or guardian's supervision if the parent or guardian does not believe that the use of such device is necessary or in the interest of the child or adult under supervision.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 401. NO FUNDS AUTHORIZED FOR BYRNE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION PROGRAM.

For fiscal year 2017, no funds are authorized to be appropriated for an Edward Byrne Memorial criminal justice innovation program.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. **GOHMERT**. Mr. Speaker, I am inquiring whether anyone is in opposition to the bill. If not, I would like to claim the time.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. The Chair would inquire if the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is opposed to the bill.

Ms. **JACKSON LEE**. Mr. Speaker, I support the bill.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas will control 20 minutes in opposition to the bill.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **GOODLATTE**. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4919, currently under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. **GOODLATTE**. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that 60 percent of the 5.3 million individuals

with Alzheimer's disease and 49 percent of children with autism are susceptible to wandering or leaving safe areas and the protection of a responsible caregiver. The results of wandering can be devastating to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and children with developmental disabilities.

The legislation we are considering today is named in honor of two boys with autism who wandered away from their caregivers and tragically drowned. The special circumstances surrounding cases of wandering individuals are circumstances that people in local communities such as first responders and school personnel are often not specifically trained to handle.

The cost to local communities for a search for a missing person is extremely expensive, even in instances where the local law enforcement agency is trained. That is why we are considering Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016. It reauthorizes the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program and broadens the program to protect children with autism.

This legislation authorizes DOJ to make grants to law enforcement agencies, public safety agencies, and nonprofit organizations to provide educational wandering prevention programming to families and caretakers of individuals who wander, as well as training to first responders and school personnel to facilitate rescue and recovery.

The bill also enables parents and caregivers to apply for voluntary, noninvasive tracking technology that can be used to help locate a person who has wandered away from the care and safety of his or her home. While these devices are already in widespread use, there are many families that simply can't afford them. The result is oftentimes an expensive search borne by State and local enforcement agencies that all too frequently results in tragic consequences.

We have worked hard to address the privacy concerns that some have raised about this bill. The updated language makes it explicitly clear that this is a completely voluntary program, that all tracking devices must be noninvasive, and that the Federal Government may not store location data related to the devices.

Finally, we make it clear that such devices are only to be recommended where they are the least restrictive alternative. American communities are safer when they are equipped with the training to prevent tragedies from happening. This legislation will assist communities in receiving valuable education on how to prevent individuals with Alzheimer's disease and children with autism from wandering and to respond quickly and appropriately in cases in which they do. I urge all Members to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, but I actually do so with a heavy heart. The level of respect I have for the people involved in this bill is really off the charts. These are wonderful people. I appreciate their mental clarity, their intellect, and their big hearts all involved in pushing this legislation in Congress. I can't attribute motive outside Congress, but in Congress, I know it is with the best of intentions and best of hearts.

When we start a Federal program, things that will be only temporary—things that were going to be only temporary come to mind like the income tax, and it was going to be small and temporary. Well, it is still going on, and it has gotten bigger. I have read the bill, and I want to thank the people involved. I have ultimate respect for both Chairman GOODLATTE and my friend CHRIS SMITH. I just couldn't have stronger feelings for people. And my friend across the aisle, it would surprise some people, but we get along quite well, and I appreciate the care she has for people.

Though there have been provisions added—there have been changes made to try to deal with some of the concerns that people like me have had—it is still a problem. If you look at page 21, the last page of the bill, it has this language added: "Voluntary participation. Nothing in this Act may be construed to require that a parent or guardian use a tracking device to monitor the location of a child or adult under that parent or guardian's supervision if the parent or guardian does not believe the use of such device is necessary."

Frankly, I looked at making a provision like that and asking that it be in the bill, and then I realized: Wait a minute. There are back doors. There are things the Attorney General could do that could satisfy the language we have for "voluntary." Okay. No, the parent or guardian won't have to do that or monitor that, but we have the system in place. It is a Federal system.

So now we have the capability to monitor and track people so, you know, gee, this person is a problem. The definition of who could have this procedure or implement used is, as we are told, people with Alzheimer's, people with autism, people who may wander off or, and the words are, a developmental disability. Well, developmental disability, that is a severe or chronic disability of an individual 5 years or older that is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of those. And so then we get over into the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and we have seen the evolution of the DSM through 1, 2, 3—major changes at 3—4, 5. Personality disorders like antisocial disorder were once called sociopath or psychopath, but there is an argument that they are a developmental disorder, and they are chronic for so many people.

So then you begin to see, well, we don't have a very tight definition of what a developmentally disabled per-

son is, and we look to the bill, and of course in trying to make this bill broader so it would include autism and other developmental disabilities, we see, on page 2, in the section header, we want to make clear this isn't just Alzheimer's disease patients so we insert the word "Americans," which is a little broader than "Alzheimer's disease patient."

Again, that is in the header, so it is not necessarily language, and people like me that have had to review language as a judge or a chief justice and write opinions on what words mean, how they apply to these circumstances, I see where this goes. We will have a Federal tracking program, but it is only for people with Alzheimer's or autism that wander off. Well, yeah, or developmental disabilities, and that is pretty far reaching where we go with that. But it is just a mental health issue and it is a physical issue because we know—and I know this is what has driven my friend supporting this bill, we have had people wander off and be found dead. All of us have seen stories like that.

The question is: Is it the job of the Federal Government to start a tracking program? And since it is mental disease, obviously the person who would be in charge of such a wonderful program that would help us track people with Alzheimer's, autism, or other developmental disability, it would be the Secretary of Health and Human Services. But wait. The bill gives the authority to the Attorney General of the United States. We are talking Department of Justice.

It does say a couple of places the AG will get with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and collaborate, but ultimately these decisions are the decisions of the Attorney General. The Attorney General will make the call. The bill specifically says that the Attorney General will also, basically, make all the rules and regulations with regard to this tracking system. And then it also says that the Attorney General will formulate the "best practices." So maybe to me or someone in this body, developmental disability would mean one thing, and we do have definition in Federal law, but there, too, it is quite broad.

I so much appreciate the insertion of the word "noninvasive" for the tracking device or system, and nonpermanent. Well, I know tattoos are nonpermanent if you go through what I understand is a pretty painful process. I had felony judge friends who would order people to have tattoos removed, so I guess you could say those were nonpermanent. But when you look at definitions of what noninvasive is—and I don't find it in the bill. Perhaps it is somewhere in Federal law. But even then, you have the word "noninvasive" subject to interpretation. Whose interpretation? The Attorney General, the Department of Justice's head, to make the determination of what is noninvasive.

A definition in medicine, this or some similar are often used, that noninvasive would be a process that does not violate the integrity of the mucocutaneous barriers. Well, if you insert a chip just above the subcutaneous barriers, would that be noninvasive? If you go a little bit under the subcutaneous barriers, would that be noninvasive? Well, there is only one way to find out, and that is once the Attorney General formulates the regulations and the best practices, then we find out what is actually noninvasive.

There is a procedure, and this indicates the people who prepared this bill—and I am not being sarcastic. They were really trying to figure out a way to protect an overoppressive government. You have to have a procedure of appeal, and the Attorney General will help set that up. If you have a complaint, you think something is not being done properly, well, the Attorney General is going to help create the rules that allow you to complain or appeal on that.

□ 1815

Oh, and by the way, I never wanted to be in a football, basketball, or baseball game—and I love all those sports and played them all—but I never wanted to be in the game where the referee is the one that wrote the rules for our league, because they didn't yield and their opinion was better than the rules on the page, no matter what the page said. So the Attorney General can tell us what he really meant or she really meant.

Voluntary, I appreciate that part, but we have a Federal tracking system and it says here in the bill it is to prevent violence or injury or even death to one's self, to the person, or injury to someone else.

Now, why would this be a concern today, other than the fact that we have seen reports come out of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Department of Homeland Security who think that people who deny manmade climate change are committing, basically, a law against nature. They are violating a law against nature.

We see now where there are people who just put in your search engine religious beliefs, mental disorders, and you will have all kinds of investigations come up. There are people in this government, like those in the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that think that those who claim to be Christians and use code words like 'religious liberty,' that that is code for Islamophobia, homophobia, xenophobia, not understanding that a true Christian is basing their beliefs and their trust in Jesus Christ, who is love incarnate.

Nonetheless, we have government officials that think that religious beliefs are a problem, and that the even bigger problem is, if you are a veteran—that is what Homeland Security has said—and you believe in the strict interpre-

tation of the words on the pages of the Constitution, that makes you a bigger threat.

So when we are talking about terms that we have seen change over the years, we have seen the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual have massive change. Why? Sometimes it is because medicine, psychology, or psychiatry has made great discoveries and improvements, and sometimes it is because one group has a better lobbying group than others.

Mr. Speaker, by the way, other good language here is that none of the money can be used for conferences that may cost more than \$20,000, unless they do certain things. Another good provision is that none of the money may be used to create a Federal database, but the money will be used for State, local, nonprofit organizations.

I can't find anything that says that we in the Federal Government cannot fund State and local databases of individuals that have developmental disabilities such as they are too religious and, therefore, they are deemed to have a developmental disability, antisocial personalities. It is just too open and there are too many loopholes.

I like the idea; and the more I thought about it, the more I read the language, the more I saw the open loopholes that could result in a Federal tracking system that George Orwell would have been embarrassed about.

So, with brotherly and appeared appreciation for those pursuing this bill out of the best of intentions—just wanting to stop death and harm to one's self because you have autism, Alzheimer's—Mr. Speaker, I humbly submit this is a dangerous door for any government to open, a door that Orwell would have warned about.

People told me, well, gee, there is ink that you can use in a tattoo that can be tracked. I don't know. It is a door that we should not open at the Federal level to begin a program of tracking, no matter whether it is State or local officials that have the database and we get it and look at it or what.

So I hope that the bill doesn't pass and we can work together to find ways to help those who cannot help themselves.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 17 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding and let me thank the sponsor of this bill.

Five minutes certainly will not be enough time to refute my good friend from Texas, but let me start by saying to my colleagues that this bill is about saving lives. Let me say it again. It is

squarely, on its face, simply about saving lives.

I support this bipartisan measure because it addresses an urgent need, one with which I have had firsthand experience. As a Member of the United States Congress, I take great concern, as we all do, with the individual lives of our constituents. I have had at least two occasions to deal with missing adults whose families have been in pain. Those adults have been missing because of dementia or Alzheimer's. Out of their plight, we have sought law enforcement to be of help to look for these loved ones.

This bill would amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize and expand the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program. Across our Nation, there are millions of children who suffer from autism or mental developmental disorders, as well as individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

What is the crux of this bill? A few years ago, Congresswoman WATERS and myself introduced amendments to the Elder Justice Act and Elder Abuse Victims Act, which reauthorized and expanded the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program's key provisions.

The Department of Justice program supports the use of new technologies to help local communities and law enforcement officials quickly locate and identify people with Alzheimer's disease who wander or are missing and reunite them with their families, providing vital assistance to a vulnerable population.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it is about saving lives. We know, in 2016, one in nine older Americans have Alzheimer's disease; 6 in 10 people with dementia will wander. Alzheimer's was the sixth leading cause of death in 2013 in Texas alone.

As it relates to children and autism, nearly half of the children with autism engage in wandering behavior. More than one-third of children with autism who wander are never or rarely able to communicate their name, address, or phone number. Accidental drowning accounts for approximately 90 percent of lethal outcomes as relate to children with autism who wander.

Let me speak specifically to the legislation before us and answer the concerns. There is no evidence in this bill that any invasive activity will occur. No chip will be put in an adult or a child who is suffering either from autism as a child—a wanderer—or an adult.

It clearly says that this is a collaboration between the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, who will only focus on leading research advocacy, self-advocacy, and service organizations to help establish standards and best practices relating to the use of noninvasive, nonpermanent tracking technology where the guardian or parent, in consultation with the individual's

healthcare provider, has determined that a noninvasive and nonpermanent tracking device is the least restrictive alternative to locate individuals. Nothing will occur, Mr. Speaker, to any loved ones without the permission of that loved one's guardian or parent, and it is only to be able to save lives. The Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services will have no further input, other than to make sure that whatever is utilized is noninvasive, best practices, and will do no harm.

What is the role of the Federal Government? It is to solve problems. We are attempting to come here today for the loved ones all over America. Meet the family of an autistic child—a loving child, a loving family. They know that is a talented and wonderful, beautiful child, but they have a tendency to wander.

Come, for example, and stand in the shoes of a family in Houston, Texas. During a wonderful holiday season, the Thanksgiving season, a time of joy and family gathering, a beautiful little 9-year-old boy walked out of the house. They said he may have his iPad with him, he may have his earphones, he might not have any shoes on, but don't call his name, don't bother to chase him, because the likelihood is he will run away from you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Texas an additional 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Just think, if there had been that acceptable tracking device, noninvasive.

Mr. Speaker, I am as concerned about privacy as my good friend from Texas. We have sat on the Judiciary Committee together and we have supported, first, when we were dealing with the issues of terrorism after 9/11, the PATRIOT Act. We came together. We were standing strong against the invasiveness that violates the privacy of the American people and violates the Constitution. This is not that case.

There are families out there who are suffering the loss of their loved ones, whether it is an elderly person or whether it is that beautiful, young child who happens to be autistic, who is in a world of their own and who decided to wander. Just think of the wonderful device that would help save lives.

I ask my colleagues to vote on this bill as a lifesaving bill that needs the love and affection of every Member of Congress to give love and affection to those families that are suffering and need our help. We are problem solvers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4919, the "Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016," as amended.

I support this bipartisan measure because it addresses an urgent need. The bill would amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize and expand the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program.

Across our Nation, there are millions of children who suffer from autism or mental developmental disorders as well as individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

These children and adults are often at serious risk of injury or even death when they wander away from their caregivers. In many cases, they are disoriented and unable to seek help for themselves. They may not even remember their name or where they live. Worse yet, they can be seriously injured or worse.

This bill, in fact, is named for two young boys—Kevin and Avonte—who died tragically after wandering away from their caregivers.

To address this problem, H.R. 4919 would significantly improve the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program in several significant respects.

First, the bill would expand the scope of the Program to authorize grants to locally based organizations to fund initiatives, activities, and services related to children with autism and developmental disabilities.

Second, the bill would authorize grants for the development and operation of location tracking services in appropriate circumstances.

H.R. 4919 also expands the grant program authorized by the Missing Children's Assistance Act specifically for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to provide technical assistance and training in cases involving children with developmental disorders.

Although H.R. 4919 expands the existing grant system and renames it as the Missing Americans Alert Program, the central purpose of the Program will remain the same.

Grants would continue to be provided to the many agencies and organizations that protect and locate missing individuals suffering from disorders that result in wandering with the goal of reducing incidences of wandering and the resultant risk of injury and death.

To ensure these efforts are done effectively, prevent abuse with respect to any use of tracking technology, and protect privacy interests, the bill establishes standards and best practices.

While H.R. 4919 will help address an important issue, I am concerned that the suspension version of the bill will reduce the authorization for funding for another grant program in order to satisfy the "cut-go" requirements of the Majority.

I do not see the need to reduce the authorization for one good program to fund another, and I hope we will be able to address this issue as we work with the Senate on final legislation for enactment.

Nevertheless, H.R. 4919 overall is an important measure that will provide real assistance to those who are among the most vulnerable in our society.

As this Congress comes to a close, I am pleased that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have worked together in a spirit of compromise to address a critical issue that unfortunately affects so many Americans.

It is my hope that this spirit of cooperation will continue into the next Congress, particularly in the area of criminal justice reform.

I am pleased to support H.R. 4919 because this bill would reauthorize and expand the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program and authorize grants to establish and operate programs that provide location tracking services for children with autism or other

developmental and adults with Alzheimer's or dementia—something I have long advocated for and worked to make law.

Thousands of adults and children go missing each year.

While we must be concerned for all individuals who go missing, adults and children, with mental deficiencies or disabilities, require more particularized consideration due to their vulnerability.

Adults who suffer from Alzheimer's or dementia and children with autism spectrum disorders, or other developmental disorders, are prone to wander away from safe places.

A study published this year by researchers at Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York reported that more than 250,000 school-age children with autism or other developmental disorders wander away from adult supervision each year.

The National Crime Information Center reported that, between 2011 and 2015, roughly 16–17 percent of adults reported missing suffered from a mental or physical disability or senility.

When these individuals wander away, they are oftentimes at great risk of serious injury or even death.

This bill is named for two children who wandered away and drowned.

Sadly, each one of us has a similar story about a constituent.

I have pushed so hard for this type of legislation so that we do not have to tell more stories like the one of Mr. Sammy Kirk, a native of Houston, whose family called me for help in locating him.

Mr. Kirk was 76 years old and suffered from dementia when he wandered away.

His family searched for him for days to no avail.

In their desperation, they called on me to lend my services to them to help find him.

We searched together for Mr. Kirk for three days and nights.

When we found him, he had succumbed to dehydration.

His body lay alongside a bayou, many miles away from his home.

I have advocated for so long, along with my colleague, Rep. MAXINE WATERS, in attempting to establish a pilot program during the 109th and 110th Congresses to provide voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals to assist in locating such individuals when they are reported missing.

Mr. Kirk and many others might have been saved if such a program already existed.

The need for individual location tracking is just as critical as it was in 2008, when I and Congresswoman WATERS offered amendments to several bills providing for such programs, including the Elder Justice Act and the Elder Abuse Victims Act.

I am pleased that the key provisions of the Jackson Lee-Waters Amendments have been incorporated into the bill before us today.

More than 5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease and 1 in 68 children has an autism spectrum disorder.

Almost half of wandering Alzheimer's patients will be seriously injured or die if they are not found within 24 hours of their departure.

Like their older counterparts, almost half of autistic children are expected to wander away from their caregivers.

Several studies predict that many of these children will be at risk of drowning or sustaining a traffic injury.

The number of citizens suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia, autism, or developmental disorders is expected to grow rapidly and exponentially.

The time has come for us to offer all that we have available to prevent any more stories like that of Kevin Curtis Wills, or Avonte Oquendo, Mr. Sammy Kirk, or just as recently as this Thanksgiving holiday, Marcus McGhee.

Let us focus our efforts on assisting state and local governments in the development of alert systems and technology to protect some of our most vulnerable constituents and locate them, if the time ever comes.

This bill would provide for a host of entities and measures that work together to protect, locate, and recover loved ones, including education and training.

This bill would also expand the grants that can be awarded to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to provide technical assistance and training in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases to also include children with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see this bill before us today.

It is a good piece of legislation that responds to a need that has reached a tipping point.

I am concerned about the cutting of funds for the Byrne Innovation program for 2017, however the Continuing Resolution will provide funding until April 2017.

CHILDREN WITH AUTISM FACT SHEET

Autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental disorders in the U.S.

Nearly half of children with autism engage in wandering behavior.

More than 1/3 of children with autism who wander are never or rarely able to communicate their name, address or phone number.

Accidental drowning accounts for approximately 90% of lethal outcomes among children with autism who wander.

Other dangers include dehydration; heat stroke; hypothermia; traffic injuries; falls; physical restraint encounters with a stranger.

After intellectual disabilities, autism is the most common developmental disorder.

A white child with autism is almost 3 times more likely to receive an accurate diagnosis of autism on their first visit to a specialist, than a black child.

Children diagnosed as early as 18 months to 3 years have the benefit of preschool intervention programs in their most formative years.

The average African-American child with autism is not diagnosed until they are 5 years old.

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control released a 2016 report, announcing an increase in autism from one child in 88 to one in 42.

Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average.

Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism.

Half of families report they have never received advice or guidance about elopement from a professional.

AMERICANS WITH ALZHEIMER'S FACT SHEET

In 2016, 1 in 9 older Americans had Alzheimer's disease.

6 in 10 people with dementia will wander.

Alzheimer's was the 6th leading cause of death in 2013 in Texas.

Of the 5.4 million Americans with Alzheimer's, an estimated 5.2 million people are

age 65 and older, and approximately 200,000 individuals are under age 65 (younger-onset Alzheimer's).

Almost 2/3 of Americans with Alzheimer's were women in 2014.

Among people age 70, 61% of those with Alzheimer's are expected to die before the age of 80 compared with 30% of people with Alzheimer's—a rate twice as high.

In 2015, 15.9 million family and friends provided 18.1 billion hours of unpaid care to those with Alzheimer's and other dementias—an estimated \$221.3 billion.

In 2016, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation \$236 billion.

Studies have shown that early diagnosis and the creation of a stimulating and supportive environment can be beneficial in slowing the progression of Alzheimer's.

In addition to looking for a cure, researchers are focusing more and more on supporting the caregivers who spend upwards of 13 hours a day caring for loved ones.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, for his enormous efforts and those of his staff to, out of an abundance of caution, address some of the issues that were raised by my friend from Texas. I don't think some of his concerns were included or at risk in the bill, but we clarified and made very clear about voluntary participation and the issue of noninvasiveness and nonpermanent, which is now clearly defined in the legislation. So it is an improvement. Mr. GOODLATTE was the one who came up with that language. The language that deals with the collection, use, and retention of data is solely for the purpose of preventing injury or death to the patient.

Mr. Speaker, in the year 2000, I co-founded two caucuses: the Autism Caucus and the Alzheimer's Caucus. I wrote three laws on autism, including the most recent Autism CARES Act, which not only provides \$1.3 billion for autism and research at NIH, CDC, and HRSA, but also looks at the aging out issue.

Law enforcement is not ready to deal with severely autistic children who, when you approach them, need a certain approach so that they don't react violently, especially if they have a sense of threat.

As my good friend and colleague from Virginia, the distinguished chairman said, about 50 percent of autistic children wander. We know at least 100 children since 2011 have died. The bill is named after two of them who drowned.

□ 1830

A benign tracking device that is noninvasive, there is no collection or use other than for the prevention of injury or death, and, of course, there is no national storage. If you ask, I say to my colleagues, your local sheriffs, your law enforcement about the lifesaving program, some have it, some don't. Within about one-half hour of an Alzheimer's patient or an autistic patient

being lost, wandering, they find them. Those who are not found in 24 hours, not only have got a 50 percent chance of getting hurt themselves, but can hurt other people. About 60 percent of the Alzheimer's community wander at some point. This is a way of protecting and preventing injury.

I say to my colleague, my good friend from Texas, he is reading into the things that are not there. One of the groups put out an alert suggesting a vote against this and hadn't even read the clarifications out of an abundance of caution, again, put in there by Mr. GOODLATTE.

So I would hope that Members would support this. This will save lives. And we are not reinventing the wheel. The Alzheimer's program was in effect without any parade of horrors occurring as a result.

I check with Alzheimer's patients all the time, Alzheimer's Association and, of course, Autism Speaks, and others who are all for this. They want this desperately because wandering is a serious problem.

We want to get our loved ones, find our loved ones who have developmental disabilities or have Alzheimer's, and make sure they get back to a safe and secure environment as quickly as possible. That is all this does.

So I urge my colleagues to support it. I, again, thank the chairman. I thank Mr. CONYERS and others. This is a bipartisan bill. Senators GRASSLEY and SCHUMER sponsored it on the Senate side, Ms. MAXINE WATERS—it is the left, right, middle, everybody in between. This is about helping people who are at grave risk when they wander.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers other than myself, and I believe I have the right to close, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will not bow to anyone who may think they have greater love or care or commitment to people who suffer from dementia or other developmental disabilities. I have spent an awful lot of time with people I love.

But let me just tell you, Mr. Speaker—let me finish that. The people I love, I don't know if they knew where they were. I have spent time with family and people I love who struggle with these very issues. I know there is a danger of death. There is a danger of injury.

Whether Franklin said it or not, those who will give up a little liberty to get security deserve neither. Whoever said it, I think it was Franklin, some say it wasn't, but it is true.

We are told, this is strictly for all those people out there that have autistic kids or people with developmental disability. Well, they haven't used—nobody here has used developmental disability but me.

But the truth is, the reason I heard about this bill, my staff tells me, is we

just got a call from someone who has an autistic child, and they are scared to death that the Federal Government is going to start a tracking program for kids with autism.

And yeah, they will provision in here that it is supposed to be voluntary, but once you have the system in place—I can guarantee you, I have seen programs like this get started. And when I am a judge and law officers come in and say, this person is a threat, they swear to it, the evidence is in the affidavit then, yes, I will give them a warrant to go use whatever they say they believe will be the best way to handle the situation.

Once it is in place, it is going to be used by more than parents; you can count on it. And if you look at Page 17: The Attorney General shall determine the criteria. The Attorney General shall determine the criteria for determining who should have direct access to the tracking system and determine what is noninvasive, what is nonpermanent. The Attorney General shall make sure that the tracking device access to data is restricted to law enforcement and health agencies, but whoever the Attorney General determines.

I am telling you, this is opening Pandora's box. And as a parent said to us, we can track our child using our own resources. And if we don't have the resources, there are charities that will help us. Please don't let the government start a tracking program because people in this room could end up being on the list of people who end up having developmental disabilities; and they are a threat, as Homeland Security says, so many of our veterans and our constitutionalists are today.

This is about using resources that people have, and if they don't then let's use charitable money so that the government doesn't invade our privacy any more than it already has, already does.

I care about the injuries. I have devoted so much of my life to punishing those who violate people's space; that harm others; that kill others. I have not backed away from that commitment. But the government's job is not to be a dictator or to be a big brother. We never do that well.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to my good friend from Texas, and he is my good friend from Texas, that I know that he loves people with developmental disabilities, people with Alzheimer's, families that face the challenge of autism, and I know that his heart is in the right place. But I also know that we have just an honest difference of opinion about what we are doing here and the best way to save the lives of people when they are lost.

I know in my community of Roanoke, Virginia, that we have people, both with Alzheimer's and with autism, who wander off. Sometimes families are able to provide other means of

keeping them safe, and sometimes they are not.

But I would argue to you that a tracking device that is not federally administered, that does not have data that is stored by the Federal Government, that is simply a program that already exists and is simply being changed to allow it to apply to families with autistic members of the family who want to voluntarily participate in this, and is something that not only saves lives but also creates more freedom, not more government surveillance or more government intervention in people's lives, as the gentleman is concerned about, but actually more freedom, more freedom so that people can move about a little more freely, and others can know, family members can know where they are.

I think that this is an important change in this law that is going to make life better for families and give them peace of mind, more freedom of movement, and the ability to find them if they do wander off, as has happened so often, as happened in the case of Kevin and Avonte, the children for whom this legislation is named.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his hard work over a long period of time on this. I think the Judiciary Committee has done good work to improve this.

I want to thank the ranking member. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas. I want to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work to make this bill, a good bill, even better.

To address the concerns raised by the gentleman from Texas, again, this is voluntary. We are not starting a program. It already exists.

And the authority of the Attorney General, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services, because it is primarily a training and education program to State and local law enforcement, so that when first responders and law enforcement personnel and so on are called to look for someone whose life is endangered, as it happens every day, unfortunately, somewhere in this great country, they will have a new, good, noninvasive tool to help protect the lives of the innocent, the lives of those who don't know where they might be headed or where they might be and, therefore, can help families find them, help first responders find them, bring them back to safety, save their lives. That is what this bill is about.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4919, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROMOTING TRAVEL, COMMERCE, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6431) to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6431

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. JURISDICTION OVER OFFENSES COMMITTED BY CERTAIN UNITED STATES PERSONNEL STATIONED IN CANADA.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the chapter heading, by striking "TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS"; and

(2) by adding after section 3272 the following:

"§ 3273. Offenses committed by certain United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever, while employed by the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice and stationed or deployed in Canada pursuant to a treaty, executive agreement, or bilateral memorandum in furtherance of a border security initiative, engages in conduct (or conspires or attempts to engage in conduct) in Canada that would constitute an offense for which a person may be prosecuted in a court of the United States had the conduct been engaged in within the United States or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, as provided for that offense.

"(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'employed by the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice' means—

"(1) being employed as a civilian employee, a contractor (including a subcontractor at any tier), or an employee of a contractor (or a subcontractor at any tier) of the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice;

"(2) being present or residing in Canada in connection with such employment; and

"(3) not being a national of or ordinarily resident in Canada."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Part II of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the table of chapters, by striking the item relating to chapter 212A and inserting the following:

"212A. Extraterritorial jurisdiction over certain offenses 3271";

and

(2) in the table of sections for chapter 212A, by inserting after the item relating to section 3272 the following:

"3273. Offenses committed by certain United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives."

(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to infringe upon or otherwise affect the exercise of prosecutorial discretion by the Department of Justice in implementing this section and the amendments made by this section.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. **GOODLATTE**) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. **JACKSON LEE**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **GOODLATTE**. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 6431, currently under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. **GOODLATTE**. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today we consider on suspension H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016. The bill's origin stems from an international agreement entered into between Canada and the United States in March 2015, known as the agreement on Land, Rail, Marine, and Air Transport Preclearance. This agreement established an immigration and trade preclearance system to strengthen economic competitiveness and national security.

Preclearance facilities permit travelers to pass through U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspections at a particular foreign port prior to entering the United States. This process expedites a traveler's arrival in the U.S., while also protecting national security by preventing from entry those individuals deemed a threat.

CBP officers currently conduct preclearance operations at airports around the world, including various Canadian airports, marine ports, and a rail station in British Columbia.

H.R. 6431 helps implement the foregoing agreement by ensuring that U.S. Government personnel who are stationed in Canada, particularly CBP preclearance officers, may be held accountable in U.S. courts if they commit a crime while performing their official duties, assuming their actions would constitute a crime, if committed in the United States.

Strengthening our Nation's relationship with our northern neighbor is important for both our economy and national security. H.R. 6431 helps pave the way for increased cooperation with Canada to spur economic growth here at home and prevent those who shouldn't be coming to the United States from arriving in the first place.

I want to thank Representatives **KUSTER** and **STEFANIK** for their work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. **JACKSON LEE**. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my first order of business is to thank Congresswoman **KUSTER** for her leadership on this legislation; and then to make mention of a bill just an hour or two ago that bears mentioning, that I want to take note of the importance of its passage, and that is S. 1632. In the House it was H.R. 3833. The Senate bill has now passed, a bill to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram.

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As I begin to discuss this bill, the issue of security is on all of our minds, certainly the tragedy of the Boko Haram onslaught in Nigeria, the missing Chibok girls should be on our mind, and this bill that I just mentioned that was passed and supported by Congresswoman **WILSON** of Florida will be a very, very important initiative, one of which I cosponsored and will continue to work on this issue.

Now I rise in strong support of H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016. The bill would establish U.S. criminal jurisdiction over offenses committed by Federal employees conducting border security duties in Canada. In so doing, H.R. 6431 will strengthen our national security as well as promote the safe and efficient flow of travelers and goods between the United States and Canada, one of the United States' strongest allies.

In addition, it will facilitate the expansion of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities in Canada, which is our Nation's largest trading partner. Each day, our countries trade billions of dollars of goods, services, and stock investments. Annually this relationship generates in excess of \$1.4 trillion in value. This partnership also creates millions of jobs for both Canadians and Americans.

To protect this incredibly important relationship, the Beyond the Border agreement between the United States and Canada created a plan to enhance national security and promote efficient travel and trade.

This agreement is intended to facilitate the expansion of U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities in Canada, which prevents inadmissible people and items from entering the United States before they reach a U.S. entry point.

The United States, as a result of this agreement, saves millions of dollars in processing costs, and our national security is strengthened because potential threats are stopped before they access U.S. soil.

In addition, preclearance facilities help alleviate congestion for millions of travelers and traders arriving at

U.S. airports from Canada. That is a very, very important aspect of this legislation, along with its very strong security commitment. The expansion will include rail preclearance facilities for the first time, thereby creating another safe and efficient way to travel between each country. This bill is intended to resolve a final procedural impediment to the full expansion of the preclearance facilities in Canada by ensuring that U.S. personnel who work at these facilities are held accountable under U.S. law.

Again, I thank my good friend, Congresswoman **KUSTER**. Her leadership is one that we are greatly appreciative of. I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 6431.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6431, the "Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016."

This bill would establish U.S. criminal jurisdiction over offenses committed by federal employees conducting border security duties in Canada.

In so doing, H.R. 6431 will strengthen our national security as well as promote the safe and efficient flow of travelers and goods between the United States and Canada.

In addition, it will facilitate the expansion of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities in Canada, which is our Nation's largest trading partner.

Each day, our countries trade billions of dollars of goods, services and stock investments. Annually, this relationship generates in excess of \$1.4 trillion in value. And, this partnership also creates millions of jobs for both Canadians and Americans.

To protect this incredibly important relationship, the "Beyond the Border Agreement" between the United States and Canada created a plan to enhance national security and promote efficient travel and trade.

This Agreement is intended to facilitate the expansion of U.S. Customs and Border Protection pre-clearance facilities in Canada, which prevents inadmissible people and items from entering the United States before they reach a U.S. entry point.

The United States, as a result of this Agreement, saves millions of dollars in processing costs and our national security is strengthened because potential threats are stopped before they access U.S. soil.

In addition, pre-clearance facilities help alleviate congestion for millions of travelers and traders arriving at U.S. airports from Canada. And, the expansion will include rail pre-clearance facilities for the first time, thereby creating another safe and efficient way to travel between each country.

This bill is intended to resolve a final procedural impediment to the full expansion of the preclearance facilities in Canada by ensuring that U.S. personnel who work at these facilities are held accountable under U.S. law.

H.R. 6431 is an important bill that will advance the interests of the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, which will allow the expansion of preclearance facilities in Canada and thereby enhance national security and promote trade and travel in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. **GOODLATTE**. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to

the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), who is one of the chief sponsors of this legislation.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act.

First I want to take a moment to thank my colleague, Congresswoman KUSTER, for all of her efforts on this important bill. As you can see, the need for preclearance and this bill stretches across party lines and across our great Nation.

In my district and communities in northern New York, Canada is more than just a bordering nation. They are our neighbors, our friends, and our largest trading partner. Plattsburgh, a city in my district, has even branded itself as Montreal's U.S. suburb, home to more than 100 U.S. subsidiaries of Canadian companies with 15 percent of our area workforce working for a Canadian or border-related employer.

That is why I helped lead the efforts to craft H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act—a necessary step to solidify the preclearance agreement between the U.S. and Canada, which was reached over a year ago.

This significant, bipartisan legislation is great news for U.S.-Canadian relations. It maintains a positive working relationship with border officials, especially in rural regions like ours in the north country, and it allows for facility sharing along the border. This bill also expands U.S. preclearance operations to help provide expedited screening for Amtrak passengers prior to traveling. This process will allow for an easier and accelerated trip while ensuring necessary protections for our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this vital legislation to maintain a secure northern border and facilitate travel and commerce between the U.S. and Canada. I urge the Senate to act quickly to send this measure to the President.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER), who is the author of this legislation.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas, and I thank the chair, Mr. GOODLATTE.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016.

In my home State of New Hampshire, Granite Staters understand the special relationship that Americans have with Canada. For families in the north country and my district, many of their relatives live just across the border in Quebec, and many of our businesses rely on cross-border trade to grow and expand their operations.

According to the State Department, the United States and Canada share the single longest international border in the world and trade over \$1.8 billion

every day in goods and services, supporting millions of jobs in the U.S.

Furthermore, approximately 380,000 people cross our border every day, and can do so safely because of the close coordination between U.S. and Canadian border security officials. Many of these travelers save time by utilizing preclearance facilities that are operated by Customs and Border Protection officials at nine different Canadian airports.

Preclearance has numerous security, travel, and trade benefits that present the United States and Canada with a win-win opportunity. First and foremost, preclearance enhances our national security efforts by detecting threats early before they reach U.S. soil. Because travelers go through customs and border inspection prior to boarding their plane, preclearance can intercept inadmissible travelers before they reach the U.S. In fact, in 2014 alone, preclearance operations prevented more than 10,000 inadmissible travelers from coming to the United States, saving American taxpayers more than \$20 million in detention, processing, and repatriation costs.

Second, preclearance boosts cross-border trade by increasing foreign direct investment, creating new jobs and opening up high value tourism to regional markets in the United States.

Third, preclearance improves the overall experience for travelers—particularly those who travel frequently for work—by reducing wait times at border crossings. Because passengers undergo screening prior to travel, they are not subjected to long lines when they arrive in the United States.

To build upon the existing benefits of preclearance, the United States and Canada signed a new, groundbreaking preclearance agreement in 2015 that will pave the pathway for the expansion of these facilities at land, rail, marine, and air ports of entry.

This new agreement represents a 21st century approach to border security, but in order for the 2015 preclearance agreement to be finalized, we must pass legislation in both the United States Congress and the Canadian Parliament, which is what brings us to the floor today.

My bipartisan legislation, H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act, will finalize the 2015 preclearance agreement by ensuring that the United States has the legal authority to fairly hold CBP officials accountable if they engage in wrongdoing abroad. Under the new preclearance agreement, the United States secured the right to prosecute U.S. officials if they commit crimes on the job while stationed in Canada. Our legislation gives the United States the ability to prosecute any cases of wrongdoing on our own soil and ensures that we are holding all officials accountable.

I am so proud of the bipartisan efforts to get this bill across the finish line. I thank my colleague, Congress-

woman ELISE STEFANIK, for her tireless efforts to advance this critical piece of legislation. I would also thank the 23 bipartisan cosponsors who have championed this bill and supported our efforts to pass the bill before the close of the 114th Congress.

I ask for immediate passage of the bill. I thank the chair and the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I will close at this time.

It is my pleasure to indicate what an important bill H.R. 6431 is because it will advance the interests of the United States. I thank the two leading cosponsors for their collaboration and for their leadership: the gentlewoman from New York and the gentlewoman from New Hampshire. I thank the gentlewomen so very much for bringing this bill forward and working so hard on it to improve the relationships and the ability for travel and commerce between Canada and the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, which will allow the expansion of preclearance facilities in Canada, thereby enhance national security and promote trade and travel in the United States. I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I would just like to say congratulations and good work to the gentlewoman from New York and the gentlewoman from New Hampshire. This is a good bill, and we should pass it right now.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6431, the "Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016."

The United States and Canada have enjoyed a long and fruitful trade relationship which has created millions of jobs and pumped trillions of dollars into both economies.

This bill protects and supports this relationship by taking the final step necessary to expand the U.S. Customs and Border Protection pre-clearance facilities in Canada.

It does this by establishing U.S. criminal jurisdiction over offenses committed by federal employees conducting border security duties in Canada.

Pre-clearance facilities help expedite travel between the United States and Canada by allowing the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to inspect people before they leave Canada. This helps travelers avoid the backlog at our Nation's airports. And helps stop potential threats to our national security before they reach the United States.

Moreover, this joint effort each year saves the United States millions of dollars by repatriating individuals and items that are not allowed in the United States.

This bill, which is required for the expansion of pre-clearance operations in Canada, simply ensures that U.S. personnel who work at

these facilities are accountable under federal criminal law for their conduct.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 6431, which ensures a safer and more efficient trade relationship with Canada.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STEFANIK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6431.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EMMETT TILL UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2854) to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2854

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) meet regularly with eligible entities to coordinate the sharing of information and to discuss the status of the Department’s work under this Act;

“(4) support the full accounting of all victims whose deaths or disappearances were the result of racially motivated crimes;

“(5) hold accountable under Federal and State law all individuals who were perpetrators of, or accomplices in, unsolved civil rights murders and such disappearances;

“(6) express the condolences of the authority to the communities affected by unsolved civil rights murders, and to the families of the victims of such murders and such disappearances;

“(7) keep families regularly informed about the status of the investigations of such murders and such disappearances of their loved ones; and

“(8) expeditiously comply with requests for information received pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’) and develop a singular, publicly accessible repository of these disclosed documents.”;

(2) in section 3—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and eligible entities”;

(iii) by adding after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) REVIEW OF CLOSED CASES.—The Deputy Chief may, to the extent practicable, reopen and review any case involving a violation described in paragraph (1) that was closed prior to the date of the enactment of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 without an in-person investigation or review conducted by an officer or employee of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice or by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(4) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Department shall hold meetings with representatives of the Civil Rights Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Community Relations Service, eligible entities, and where appropriate, state and local law enforcement to discuss the status of the Department’s work under this Act.

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts made available to carry out this Act under section 6, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2017 and each of the next 10 subsequent fiscal years to carry out this paragraph.”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(II) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(IV) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

“(H) the number of cases referred by an eligible entity or a State or local law enforcement agency or prosecutor to the Department within the study period, the number of such cases that resulted in Federal charges being filed, the date the charges were filed, and if the Department declines to prosecute or participate in an investigation of a case so referred, the fact that it did so, and the outreach, collaboration, and support for investigations and prosecutions of violations of criminal civil rights statutes described in section 2(3), including murders and including disappearances described in section 2(4), within Federal, State, and local jurisdictions.”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and a description of the activities conducted under subsection (b)(3)”;

(3) in section 4(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and eligible entities”;

(4) in section 5—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each of the 10 subsequent fiscal years”;

(5) in section 6—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each of the 10 subsequent fiscal years”;

(ii) by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(B) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Using funds appropriated under section 3(b)(4)(B), the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice shall provide technical assistance by bringing together law enforcement agencies

and communities to address tensions raised by Civil Rights era crimes.”;

(6) in section 7—

(A) in the heading, by striking “DEFINITION OF ‘CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES’” and inserting “DEFINITIONS”;

(B) in paragraph (6), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting the clauses accordingly;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs accordingly;

(D) by striking “In this Act, the term” and inserting: “In this Act:

“(1) CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES.—The term”;

(E) by inserting at the end the following:

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means an organization whose primary purpose is to promote civil rights, an institution of higher education, or another entity, determined by the Attorney General to be appropriate.”; and

(7) by striking section 8.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 2854, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this bill is an important step in continuing to investigate the crimes and terror inflicted on so many involved in the civil rights movement. This bill will help to right those past wrongs and help to find justice for the families who lost loved ones in the civil rights effort.

Specifically, this bill reauthorizes and updates the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act that was passed 10 years ago. It responds to concerns that victims’ families and those working in this area have had about the implementation of the original legislation. In doing so, it strengthens the collaboration between the FBI, the Department of Justice, and local law enforcement to make sure that the goals of this legislation are met. By providing clearer direction and improved coordination between all the relevant stakeholders, this bill will help to ensure that these crimes will be solved and families who lost loved ones will be able to find justice.

This legislation also addresses some of the concerns with the Senate-passed language by making sure that the bill is fully offset, that a sunset provision is included, and by providing greater clarity regarding the collaboration between various stakeholders.

Finally, I thank both Ranking Members CONYERS and LEWIS—civil rights leaders and icons on these issues—for working with Senator BURR and other stakeholders to reach agreement on this bill, as well as for their tireless work on the underlying legislation.

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It is important that the Federal Government investigates and prosecutes these crimes to the greatest extent possible, and this important legislation will give the Department of Justice the ability and the direction to do just that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in June of 2007, this body passed, and the President subsequently signed, the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act. Since that time, the Department of Justice and cold case advocates have reviewed hundreds of cases in a search for justice and a sense of closure for the families of those who fell victim to racial violence in one of the most tumultuous periods of this Nation's history.

For those who did not live through the civil rights era, it is difficult to understand the combined climate of excitement for change that coexisted with one of fear and violence. Simply for acting on their ideals of racial equality, innocent people—young and old, Black and White—were struck down.

In some cases, unfortunately, State and local law enforcement colluded with the perpetrators of anti-civil rights violence; and attempts at justice often proved to be a charade, ending with jury nullification or tampering by racist citizens' councils.

The civil rights community has reported that for every infamous killing that tore at the South in the 1950s and 1960s, there were many more that were barely noted or investigated. We, I am proud to say, passed the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act in 2007 to help bring these cases to light and seek justice for victims and their families.

Even after nearly a decade of effort by advocates in the Justice Department, it remains clear that much work remains to heal the wounds of this period of history. To that end, the Emmett Till Reauthorization Act will create a formal framework for public engagement between the Department of Justice and cold case advocates to share information and review the status and closure of cases through 1980.

The legislation further authorizes appropriations and tasks the Department's Community Relations Service with bringing together law enforcement agencies and communities to address the tensions raised by civil rights era crimes.

The title of this bill serves as a reminder of one of the many lives that was cut much too short as a result of

racially motivated hate and violence. Emmett Till was a 14-year-old African American young man from Chicago who allegedly whistled at a White woman. Shortly thereafter, he was found murdered and tortured.

Though his accused killers were tried, they were acquitted by an all White jury. Despite attempts at gaining a Federal indictment in the case, his torture and murder remain unpunished. While his family still grieves, they have channeled their sorrow into activism for those victims still seeking justice.

I believe that it remains important that the perpetrators of civil rights era crimes be brought to justice, even 50 years later. While justice has been delayed for the victims of these crimes, the fact that we are raising these cold cases breathes new life into our new justice system. I am thankful to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Chairman GOODLATTE.

Ultimately, that commitment bodes well for our collective future and reconciliation within these communities. So I, accordingly, urge my colleagues to join those of us who are leading in this movement and effort and support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the dean of this institution. Anyone who has had the privilege of working with JOHN CONYERS and JOHN LEWIS have nothing but admiration and understanding through their teachings of the lives which they lived. This important legislation is a reflection of their commitment to these families and their personal knowledge of the pain that so many families still now experience through unsolved civil rights crimes.

Emmett Till was one of the most noteworthy and violent, and many of us still are able to see in our vision the picture of the open casket, of brutalized and beaten young Emmett Till, a 14-year-old boy, and what he had to suffer. His mother was willing to go through what might have been considered absolute humiliation in terms of seeing her son's body open to the world; but because it was such a heinous crime, she was willing for the world to see.

This legislation is enormously important because it extends, until 2027, the authority of the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute unsolved criminal civil rights cases and expands, by a decade, the time period for which the Department can reopen cases to investigate. Under current law, the cut-off date was 1970. The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 remains necessary legislation intended to complete some of the Nation's most important unfinished business.

I will just say, in concluding, this legislation will have to be a document which the Members of Congress will have to breathe life into. We will have to insist, regardless of the changing of the guard at the Department of Justice, that this section have the kind of funding that is necessary. So the task of this Congress is not finished by the authorization; it must be funded.

Many families have come to my office in deep pain needing more resources for that section, more lawyers, more energetic activity. And so I say to those who may be assigned to this at the Department of Justice, take this as a special cause. It is not just unsolved cold cases. It is a smear on the democracy of this Nation. It is a stain. It is a taint that we should live above by insisting that every family have justice for the murder of their loved ones, particularly those who were in the battle of civil rights when many in this country lived in the second-class shadow of racism and discrimination.

The civil rights battles were real; they were violent in some instances; but thank God there were leaders like JOHN LEWIS, JOHN CONYERS, many in this Congress, and certainly the late Dr. Martin Luther King, who always believed, as I do, that we can do this through peace and nonviolence. This is a tool of nonviolence. We must insist that they do their task and that we solve these unsolved murderous civil rights cases, and we do so to heal the Nation and to continue to promote our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Amendment to S. 2854, the "Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act."

I thank our colleague, JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, who is widely recognized as the moral conscience of the House for sponsoring the original legislation and I thank Chairmen GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS, for their work in shepherding this reauthorization through the Congress.

This legislation reauthorizes the "Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007," which I co-sponsored and strongly support when it was reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee, passed by the House and Senate, and signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 7, 2008 as Public Law 110-344.

The legislation before extends until 2027 the authority of the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute unsolved criminal civil rights crimes, and it expands by a decade the time period for which the department can reopen cases to investigate; under current law the cut-off date is 1970.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act of 2007 is and remains necessary legislation intended to complete some of the nation's most important unfinished business.

And that is to solve some of the most depraved acts of violence against persons belonging to a racial group that was vulnerable, politically powerless, and innocent, and against those persons who risked life and limb to help them secure the rights promised in the Declaration of Independence and made real in the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, in 1989, the Civil Rights Memorial was dedicated in Montgomery, Alabama, the birthplace of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

The Memorial honors the lives and memories of 40 martyrs who were slain during the movement from 1954 to 1968, including Emmett Till.

But we know that many more people lost their lives to racial violence during that era.

In fact, at the time the Memorial was dedicated, the killers of 13 of the 40 martyrs whose names are inscribed on the Memorial had not been prosecuted or convicted.

In 10 of the 40 deaths, defendants were either acquitted by all-white juries or served only token prison sentences.

We also know there are many cases that still cry out for justice.

These unsolved crimes represent a continuing stain on our nation's honor and mock its commitment to equal justice under law.

The legislation before us is intended to help us remove that stain once and for all.

The 40 victims selected for inclusion in the Civil Rights Memorial fit at least one of three criteria: (1) they were murdered because they were active in the civil rights movement; (2) they were killed by organized hate groups as acts of terror aimed at intimidating blacks and civil rights activists; or, (3) their deaths, like the death of Emmett Till, helped to galvanize the movement by demonstrating the brutality faced by African Americans in the South.

The 40 persons who fit the selection criteria ranged in age from 11 to 66.

Seven were white, and 33 were black.

They were students, farmers, ministers, truck drivers, a homemaker and a Nobel laureate.

But Madam Speaker, there are many, many other victims besides the 40 who are remembered on the Memorial.

The Southern Poverty Law Center reports that its research uncovered approximately 75 other people who died violently between 1952 and 1968 under circumstances suggesting that they were victims of racial violence.

For most of them the reason their names were not added to the Memorial is because not enough was known about the details surrounding their deaths.

Sadly, the reason so little is known about these cases is because they were not fully investigated or, in some cases, law enforcement officials were involved in the killings or subsequent cover-ups.

And because the killings of African Americans were often covered up or not seriously investigated, there is little reason to doubt that many slayings were never even recorded by the authorities.

The reason justice had not been served was the callous indifference, and often the criminal collusion, of many white law enforcement officials in the segregated South.

There simply was no justice for African Americans during the civil rights era.

The whole criminal justice system—from the police, to the prosecutors, to the juries, and to the judges—was perverted by racial bigotry.

African Americans were routinely beaten, bombed and shot with impunity.

Sometimes, the killers picked their victims on a whim.

Sometimes, they targeted them for their activism.

In other cases, prominent white citizens were involved and no consequences flowed.

Herbert Lee of Liberty, Mississippi, for example, was shot in the head by a state legislator in broad daylight in 1961.

It is, of course, fitting and proper that this legislation bears the name of Emmett Till, whose slaying in 1955 and his mother's decision to have an open casket at his funeral stirred the nation's conscience and galvanized a generation of Americans to join the fight for equality.

Sadly, hundreds of them were killed in that struggle, and many of the killers, like those of Emmett himself, were never successfully prosecuted.

Madam Speaker, the heart of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Cases Act is sections 3 and 4.

Section 3 establishes a Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division.

Section 3 now requires the Attorney General to designate a Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights division who will be responsible for coordinating the investigation and prosecution of violations of criminal civil rights statutes that occurred before December 31, 1979, and ended in death.

Section 3 also requires a study and report to Congress about the number of cases opened, the number of federal prosecutions commenced, the number of cases of state and local prosecutions where the DOJ assisted, the number of cases that have been closed, and the number of open pending cases.

Section 4 of the bill establishes a parallel component in the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to be headed by a Supervisory Special Agent designated by the Attorney General.

This Supervisory Special Agent in the Civil Rights Unit is responsible for investigating violations of criminal civil rights statutes that occurred not later than December 31, 1979, and resulted in death.

The Supervisory Special Agent should, where appropriate, coordinate investigations with State and local law enforcement officials.

Madam Speaker, over the past half century, the United States has made tremendous progress in overcoming the badges and vestiges of slavery.

But this progress has been purchased at great cost.

Examples of unsolved cases include the 1968 "Orangeburg Massacre" at South Carolina State University where state police shot and killed three student protesters; the 1967 shooting death of Carrie Brumfield, whose body was found on a rural Louisiana road; the 1957 murder of Willie Joe Sanford, whose body was fished out of a creek in Hawkinsville, Georgia; the 1946 killing of a black couple, including a pregnant woman, who was pulled out of a car in Monroe, Georgia, and dragged down a wagon trail before being shot in front of 200 people.

Solving these cases like these is part of the great unfinished work of America.

Madam Speaker, 53 years ago, Medgar Evers was murdered in Jackson, Mississippi; justice would not be done in his case for more than twenty years.

But that day was foretold because the evening before the death of Medgar Evers, on June 11, 1963, President John F. Kennedy addressed the nation from the Oval Office on the state of race relations and civil rights in America.

In his historic speech to the nation President Kennedy said:

We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution.

One hundred years of delay have passed since President Lincoln freed the slaves, yet their heirs, their grandsons, are not fully free. They are not yet freed from the bonds of injustice. They are not yet freed from social and economic oppression. And this Nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be flung free until all its citizens are free.

S. 2854 will help ensure that justice is received by those for whom justice has been delayed for more than two generations.

In doing so, this legislation will help this Nation fulfill its hopes and justify its boast that in America all persons live in freedom.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume simply to say to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that this is a quest for justice that needs to be ongoing. I am pleased to support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do so.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2854, the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act.

This is the Senate companion to H.R. 5067, the bill I introduced with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER). This has been a bipartisan, bicameral effort from the first day, and I ask each and every one of our colleagues to support this important legislation.

Ten years ago, I stood on the House Floor and promised to work tirelessly to pass this legislation. Two years later, we were successful in passing the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act. That legislation created a Federal strategy to bring justice and healing to the victims, survivors, and families.

When the bill was signed into law, family members, academics, historians, lawyers, advocates started working towards a full accounting for these gross human and civil rights atrocities. The reauthorization that we are considering today responds to the their appeals to Congress to make the law whole—to ensure that their thoughtful, tireless work did not fall on deaf ears and end up in a forgotten drawer.

So many people have died; so many families have mourned; so many communities have suffered. Mr. Speaker, as you know this bill is named for a 14-year-old boy who was brutally murdered 61 years ago for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Many people here tonight will recognize the names of Emmett Till, Medgar Evers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, but few know of the countless other possible victims of racially motivated crimes during this period.

This bill restores hope for the families of so many who have unanswered questions—like the Atlanta Five in my congressional district. In 1974, five African-American men—Lee Roy Holloway, Robert Walker, Marvin Walker, John Sterling and Lonnie Merritt—left Atlanta for a

fishing trip near Pensacola Florida. Their families never saw them alive again. Their pain and that of so countless others is real.

I said before, and I will say it again—we have a mission, an obligation, and a mandate to restore faith in the cornerstones of our democracy and accountability in the pursuit of truth and justice whenever possible. This bill does just that.

In developing this legislation, we took the time to research and study what happened after the original bill was signed into law. We listened to and were guided by the advocates, by law professors, by families, and by the press. We worked across the aisle and across the Dome to develop a bill that fulfills our promise to never give up on this effort—to never abandon the pursuit of truth.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I would like to thank the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project at Northeastern University School of Law; the Cold Case Justice Initiative at Syracuse University College of Law; the Emmett Till Justice Campaign; the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation; the Georgia Civil Rights Cold Case Project at Emory University; the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR); the Mamie Till Mobley Memorial Foundation; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the NAACP-Legal Defense Fund (NAACP-LDF); the National Urban League; and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). The leadership and staff of these institutions fought long and hard for this legislation. They deserve recognition and appreciation.

I would also like to thank the thousands of people across the country who signed petitions, called, emailed, and urged for Congress to act. Mr. Speaker, we must thank them for their determination, their passion, and their commitment to justice.

In closing, I would like to thank the Chair, the Ranking Member, the lead sponsors, our House Leadership, the staff, and all the Members who supported this effort. I ask each and every one of my colleagues to support this important legislation and let it become law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend

the rules and pass the bill, S. 2854, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, December 7, 2016.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On December 7, 2016, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider six resolutions included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs.

The Committee continues to work to reduce the cost of federal property and leases. Of the six resolutions considered, the two construction projects include a federal courthouse consistent with existing funding, and the four lease prospectuses include significant reductions of leased space. In total, these resolutions represent \$56 million in avoided lease costs and offsets.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on December 7, 2016.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

CONSTRUCTION—FBI HEADQUARTERS
CONSOLIDATION NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, \$834 million in appropriations are authorized for the site acquisition, design, management and inspection, and construction of a new federally-owned headquarters facility for the Federal Bureau of Investigation of not more than 2.1 million rentable square feet in the National Capital Region for the General Services Administration, for which a prospectus is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, the total funds made available through appropriations, including funds transferred to the "Federal Bureau of Investigation, Construction" account, do not exceed \$2.11 billion (excluding the value realized from the exchange of the J. Edgar Hoover building, outfitting, and decommissioning costs).

Provided further, the Administrator considers transportation impacts, including National Capital Planning Commission recommendations on parking and proximity to metro rail.

Provided further, the Administrator considers the total costs to the government for relocations, site preparation, and site acquisition.

Provided further, that such appropriations are authorized only for a project that results in a fully consolidated FBI Headquarters facility.

Provided further, that the Administrator of General Services shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on the construction of a new headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The report transmitted under this provision shall include a summary of the material provisions of the construction and full consolidation of the FBI in a new headquarters facility, including but not limited to, a schedule, the square footage, proposed costs to the Government, and a description of all buildings and infrastructure needed to complete the project.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator's authority to make an award of this project expires two years from the date of the adoption of this resolution.

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**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
Congressional Districts: MD 4,5
VA 8

FY 2017 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes construction of a new federally owned facility of approximately 2.1 million rentable square feet (RSF)¹ to provide a consolidated Headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the National Capital Region (NCR). The FBI Headquarters facility will bring together employees from the J. Edgar Hoover Building (JEH) and 13 leased locations across the NCR into a new, modern and secure facility tailored to fully support FBI's national security, intelligence and law enforcement missions. The proposed GSA construction funding in this prospectus will partner with construction funding requested in appropriations to the FBI, FY 2016 enacted appropriations, the value of the JEH exchange and other available FBI resources to support the construction cost of the FBI Headquarters facility.

FY 2017 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, Construction, and Management and Inspection).....\$759,000,000

Overview of Project

As an intelligence-driven and a threat-focused national security organization with both national security and law enforcement responsibilities, the mission of the FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats, to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States, and to provide leadership and criminal justice services to federal, state, municipal, and international agencies and partners.

The proposed FBI Headquarters facility will consolidate FBI personnel from the JEH and 13 leased locations. The proposed facility will accommodate approximately 11,000 personnel, resulting in an open-plan workspace environment to include state-of-the-art IT infrastructure as required by the FBI's national security mission. The facility will be built to meet ISC Level V security specifications on one of three previously identified sites. Initial programming provides 6,697 to 8,155 structured and unstructured parking spaces² for official vehicles, employees, and visitors.

At the time of project initiation, the FBI was housed in 21 locations throughout the NCR, including JEH, occupying an aggregate total of 3,029,709 rentable square feet. Over the

¹ This prospectus references an estimated total rentable square feet. The total rentable square footage will vary depending upon the final rentable to usable factor which will be determined by the winning bid, design and selected site.

² The actual amount of parking required will be dependent upon final site selection and the availability of alternate means of transportation.

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**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
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intervening years, FBI has taken a number of actions resulting in a decrease in the agency’s footprint. Today, FBI Headquarters functions in the NCR are housed in 14 locations, totaling 2,930,552 rentable square feet. Staff in each of these 14 locations will be consolidated into the new FBI Headquarters facility. The precise RSF for the new FBI Headquarters facility will vary based on the final R/U factor which is dependent upon the winning bid, design and selected site.

Location and Site Area

The project includes conveying title to JEH to the winning bidder in exchange for a newly constructed FBI Headquarters facility at one of the three previously identified potential sites in Greenbelt, MD, Landover, MD, and Springfield, VA.

- Greenbelt..... 61 acres
Greenbelt – Comprised of approximately 61 acres of land owned by the State of Maryland and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and controlled by GSA pursuant to a purchase option agreement. Located at the Greenbelt Metrorail Station, in Prince George’s County, Maryland.
- Landover 80 acres
Landover – Comprised of approximately 80 acres, privately owned, and controlled by GSA pursuant to a purchase option agreement between GSA and the current site owner. Located at the site of the former Landover Mall, in Prince George’s County, Maryland.
- Springfield..... 58 acres
Springfield - Comprised of approximately 58 acres of federally owned land under the custody and control of GSA. Located at the current site of the GSA Franconia Warehouse Complex in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Building Area

The proposed transaction allows the bidders to submit proposals to construct the FBI Headquarters facility on one of the three sites described above. Bidders have the opportunity to submit proposals on one, two or all three of the identified potential sites.

Building (excluding parking)..... 2,100,000 RSF

Bidders are required to accommodate parking consistent with the number of spaces required for each location: 6,697 spaces for Greenbelt; 8,155 spaces for Landover; 7,039

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**PROSPECTUS — CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
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spaces for Springfield, each inclusive of 425 official vehicles (including Bureau Cars and FBI police). Distribution between structured and unstructured parking will be dependent upon the site and the proposal made by the bidder.

Project Budget

The costs of the consolidated FBI Headquarters facility will be supported by: (1) FY 2016 enacted funds from the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, which included \$180 million in FBI construction funding, \$135 million in resources made available from the FBI's prior year balances, and \$75 million in GSA FBF construction funding; (2) the value realized from the exchange of the JEH; (3) the President's Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal of \$759 million in construction funding within the GSA FBF; and (4) the President's Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal of \$646 million in the FBI's Construction account. Combined, these funds should ensure that GSA is in a position to award the project on schedule in FY 2017, and support the design and construction of the full consolidation. It is anticipated that outfitting and transition costs will be addressed by the FBI in future years.

Schedule

	Start	End*
GSA Construction Management/Oversight Activities	FY 2016	FY 2022
Design and Construction	FY 2017	FY 2022

(*Identified end dates for both management and oversight, and design and construction are estimates. Actual schedules will be established following award with the winning bidder during design development.)

Tenant Agencies

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Justification

The FBI is in urgent need of a consolidated Headquarters facility to support information sharing, collaboration, and integration of strategic priorities. Currently, FBI Headquarters elements are dispersed over 14 locations in the greater Washington, DC area. This dispersion and fragmentation has created significant challenges to effective command and control and to facilitating organizational change. Dispersion diverts time and resources, hampers coordination, decreases flexibility, and impedes the FBI's ability to rapidly respond to ever changing, asymmetric threats. The FBI needs a consolidated Headquarters facility and operations center to support information sharing, collaboration and integration of strategic priorities. By consolidating into a single location, FBI will

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**PROSPECTUS — CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
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realize significant mission synergies, and greatly increase workforce and mission security compared to the varying risk scenarios existing throughout the current facilities.

The FBI has occupied JEH since 1974. The approximately 1.8 million rentable square foot (2.4 million gross square foot) JEH sits on 6.7 acres of land fronting Pennsylvania Avenue and is a prime location for office, retail, and residential uses. The building was designed at a time when FBI operated differently, and it cannot be redeveloped to provide the necessary space to consolidate the FBI Headquarters components or to meet the agency's physical security and current and projected operational requirements. Furthermore the IT infrastructure in JEH has reached capacity and cannot be expanded further. These challenges can best be addressed through consolidation and by providing a flexible infrastructure capable of supporting multiple IT systems. The JEH was not designed to support today's FBI mission that includes an increased emphasis on national security.

JEH and virtually all of the 13 offsite leased facilities do not meet the applicable Interagency Security Committee (ISC) Standards. Senate Report 110-397 – Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2009, concluded that JEH does not meet the ISC physical security criteria. As the central facility for the management of intelligence and national security programs, the FBI Headquarters facility must have high reliability and survivability of utilities and infrastructure.

Due to the critical need for continuous operations of the FBI, the consolidated FBI Headquarters must be resilient to safeguard the mission it houses and remain operational and capable in the event of local or regional emergency. The facility must provide the FBI the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions. In order to achieve resilience, the program includes utility and building systems redundancy, back-up power generation and water storage requirements, and energy and water efficiency targets. Requirements for utility redundancy include dual feeds for communications, electric service, potable water, and natural gas. Where appropriate, delivery of building services must also be redundant to ensure continued operability in the event of a disruption internal to the facility.

Summary of Energy Compliance

The consolidated FBI Headquarters facility will be designed to attain a Gold rating in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Building Design and Construction (BD+C) rating system, as required by GSA policy for new Federal

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**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17

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facilities. Furthermore, it will be LEED Operations and Maintenance (O+M) “ready” to ensure that the building systems are operated and maintained efficiently over the long term, protecting the government’s investment.

Energy and Resources – Design, construction, and ongoing operation of the facility will minimize the impact on the environment and the utilization of energy and other scarce and non-renewable resources. The project will consider operational requirements, and focus on strategies that support energy surety goals, incorporating principles of energy source diversity, onsite renewable energy, energy storage, net-zero energy readiness, and micro-grids, as appropriate, informed by mission goals and life-cycle cost analyses.

Sustainability – Design and construction of the facility will achieve a minimum of LEED Gold rating in the BD+C v4 rating system. The new facility will comply with all applicable federal sustainability requirements. It will also consider operational requirements, and incorporate principles of passive design, onsite management of storm-water and waste, resource efficiency, human health and well-being, and life cycle costing.

Reliability and Resilience – The facility will be designed to have high reliability and survivability of utilities and infrastructure. It will include efficient, state-of-the-art HVAC, lighting, power, security, and telecommunications systems and equipment that require minimal maintenance and are designed with backup capabilities to ensure minimal loss of service or downtime. Design of the site and buildings will include principles of energy and water surety, and resistance and resilience to climate change. Incremental climate change impacts, extreme weather conditions, and/or other extreme events, will result in minimal disruption to the mission of the FBI Headquarters complex and the safety of its occupants. The building enclosure systems and critical building systems will be designed to optimize performance and resilience in response to potential extreme events and conditions.

Prior Appropriations

Prior Appropriations			
Public Law	Fiscal Year	Amount	Purpose
114-113	2016	\$75,000,000	Construction Management and oversight activities and other project support costs
Appropriations to Date		\$75,000,000	

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FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
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Prior Committee Approvals

None

Alternatives Considered

The proposed state-of-the-art FBI Headquarters facility is a unique asset, built to the Government's specifications in the form of a detailed Program of Requirements. The proposed facility will meet the long term needs of the FBI. GSA analyzed the modernization and redevelopment of JEH, but in addition to being cost prohibitive, the current facility as sited is not capable of meeting the square footage, security setback, or operational requirements of the FBI. A leased alternative is not cost-effective given FBI's 46 year history in the current location and the stated 50+ year requirement for the proposed facility. A leased alternative is not considered to be cost effective and the 30 year present value of such alternative was not analyzed.

Recommendation

CONSTRUCTION

GSA

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**PROSPECTUS — CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
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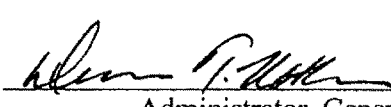
Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on February 8, 2016

Recommended: 

Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: 

Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE—ANNISTON, AL

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the site acquisition, design and construction of a new U.S. Courthouse of approximately 63,000 gross square feet, including approximately 13 parking spaces, in Anniston, Alabama at an additional site and design cost of \$2,414,000, a

total estimated construction cost of \$32,527,000, and total management and inspection cost of \$3,234,000 for a total estimated project cost, including prior authorizations, of \$42,575,000, for which a prospectus is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution amends prior authorizations of July 24, 2002 and July 23, 2003.

Provided, that the Administrator of General Services shall ensure that construction of the new courthouse complies, at a minimum, with courtroom sharing requirements

adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Provided further, that the Administrator of General Services shall ensure that the construction of the new courthouse contains no more than two courtrooms, including one for Senior District Judges and one for Bankruptcy Judges.

Provided further, that the design of the new courthouse shall not deviate from the U.S. Courts Design Guide.

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**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

FY 2016 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes the acquisition of a site, and the design and construction of a new U.S. Courthouse of approximately 63,000 gross square feet (gsf), including 13 inside parking spaces in Anniston, AL. GSA will construct the courthouse to meet the 10-year space needs of the court and court-related agencies and the site will accommodate the anticipated 30-year needs of the court. The Judiciary's Courthouse Project Priorities list (approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States on September 17, 2015) includes a courthouse project in Anniston, AL.

FY 2016 House and Senate Committee Approval Requested

(Additional Site and Design, Construction, Management & Inspection).....\$38,175,000

FY 2016 Funding Requested (as outlined in the FY 2016 Spend Plan)

(Additional Site and Design, Construction, Management & Inspection).....\$38,175,000

Overview of Project

The courts and related agencies are currently located in the Federal Building-Courthouse (FB-CT) as well as one leased location in Anniston. The FB-CT, built in 1906, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The new courthouse will provide two courtrooms and three chambers consistent with the application of courtroom sharing policies and limitation on the provision of space for projected judgeships. The site for the new courthouse will be in the central business area of Anniston.

Site Information

To Be Acquired..... Approximately 3 acres

Building Area¹

Gross square feet (excluding inside parking).....57,000

Gross square feet (including inside parking)63,000

Inside parking spaces 13

¹ Square footages and number of parking spaces are approximate. The actual project may contain a variance in gross square footage from that listed in this prospectus.

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**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

Estimated Project Budget

Site Cost (FY 2004).....	\$2,500,000
Estimated Additional Site.....	\$554,000
Design (FY 2004)	\$1,900,000
Estimated Additional Design.....	\$1,860,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC) (\$516/gsf, including inside parking)	\$32,527,000
Estimated Management and Inspection (M&I).....	\$3,234,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*.....	\$42,575,000²

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by GSA.

Schedule

Design & Construction

Start

FY 2016

End

FY 2021

Tenant Agencies

U.S. District Court, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, U.S. Probation Office, U. S. Department of Justice - Marshals Service, trial preparation space for the U.S. Department of Justice - Office of the U.S. Attorney, and GSA.

Justification

The existing FB-CT, constructed in 1906 and expanded in 1935, does not meet the U.S. Courts Design Guide standards, does not provide for future expansion, and lacks adequate security. There is no separate circulation for judicial officers and prisoners, and no secure elevators in the building. Further, there are no courtroom holding cells, central cellblock, prisoner sallyport, and no secured parking available to the courts. The new courthouse will provide separate circulation for the public, judges, and prisoners, thereby improving security, as well as the efficiency of court operations. Relocation of agencies from leased space to the new courthouse will result in savings of approximately \$195,000 in future annual lease payments to the private sector.

Due to changes in program since previous project approval, courtroom sharing, and exclusion of projected new judgeships, the proposed project has decreased in size and scope (from the previously approved 65,482 gsf).

² GSA requests approval for a total project cost. As noted in the estimated project budget above, GSA identified sub-totals comprising the estimated project budget are intended to provide a breakdown in support of the ETPC. The actual total cost to perform the entire project may differ from what is represented in this prospectus by the various subcomponents.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

Space Requirements of the U.S. Courts

	Current		Proposed	
	Courtrooms	Judges	Courtrooms	Judges
District				
- Active	1	1	0	0
- Senior	0	0	1	1
- Visiting	0	0		1
Bankruptcy	1	1	1	1
Total:	2	2	2	3

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Future of Existing Federal Building³

The Federal tenancy in Anniston does not support the need for two courthouses; therefore, GSA will explore alternatives associated with the disposal of the existing courthouse. Some of these alternatives include donation or exchange.

³ This section is included to address recommendations in the following GAO Report: Federal Courthouses: Better Planning Needed Regarding Reuse of Old Courthouses (GAO-14-48).

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

Prior Appropriations

Prior Appropriations			
Public Law	Fiscal Year	Amount	Proposed Project
108-199	2004	\$4,400,000	Site and Design
114-113*	2016	\$38,175,000	Additional Site & Design, ECC & M&I
Appropriations to Date		\$42,575,000	

*Public Law 114-113 funded \$947,760,000 for new construction projects of the Federal Judiciary as prioritized in the Federal Judiciary Courthouse Project Priorities list, of which Anniston is included. GSA's Spend Plan describes each project to be undertaken with this funding. The FY 2016 need for Anniston is \$38,175,000.

Prior Committee Approvals

Prior Committee Approvals			
Committee	Date	Amount	Proposed Project
House T&I	7/24/2002	\$3,090,000	Site and Design for 65,482 gsf; 20 inside parking spaces
Senate EPW	9/26/2002	\$3,090,000	Site and Design for 65,482 gsf; 20 inside parking spaces
House T&I	7/23/2003	\$1,291,000	Additional Site and Design for 65,482 gsf; 20 inside parking spaces
Senate EPW	6/23/2004	\$1,291,000	Additional Site and Design for 65,482 gsf; 20 inside parking spaces
House Approvals to Date		\$4,381,000	
Senate Approvals to Date		\$4,381,000	

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on

JUN 16 2016

Recommended: 

Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: 

Administrator, General Services Administration

**Housing Plan
New U.S. Courthouse**

Locations	CURRENT						PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
New Courthouse												
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (courtrooms/chambers)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2,663	-	2,590	5,253
U.S. Bankruptcy Court - Clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	15	6,288	-	750	7,038
U.S. Bankruptcy Administrator	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	1,965	-	1,800	3,765
U.S. District Court (courtrooms/chambers)	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	4,534	-	4,290	8,824
U.S. District Court - Clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2,594	-	-	2,594
U.S. Probation Office	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1,005	-	200	1,205
DOJ - U.S. Marshals Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	14	4,741	-	2,880	7,621
DOJ - Office Of U.S. Attorneys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	500
GSA - Public Buildings Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	300	300	-	600
Joint Use	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	880	880
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	44	24,590	300	13,390	38,280
Anniston FB-CT, 1129 Noble Street												
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (courtrooms/chambers)	3	3	72	-	3,287	3,359	-	-	-	-	-	-
U.S. District Court (courtrooms/chambers)	4	4	-	-	5,680	5,680	-	-	-	-	-	-
DOJ - U.S. Marshals Service	7	7	270	-	40	310	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congress - House of Representatives	2	2	1,145	-	59	1,204	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vacant Unassigned Space	-	-	2,862	-	1,455	4,317	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	16	16	4,349	-	10,521	14,870	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bankruptcy Building (Lease)												
U.S. Bankruptcy Clerk	15	15	7,707	-	-	7,707	-	-	-	-	-	-
U.S. Bankruptcy Administrator	4	4	1,521	-	-	1,521	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	19	19	9,228	-	-	9,228	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	35	35	13,577	-	10,521	24,098	44	44	24,590	300	13,390	38,280

Special Space	
Holding Cell	920
Restroom	590
Conference	2,830
ADP	150
Courtroom	4,200
Judicial Chambers	1,800
Food Service	400
Physical Fitness	800
Mailroom	880
Sallyport	820
Total:	13,390

The project may contain a variance in gross square footage from that listed in this project upon measurement and review of the completed project.

USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, NORTHERN VA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 562,000 rentable square feet of space, including 4 official parking spaces, for the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, Office of Information Technology currently located in 11 separate buildings dispersed across six locations including six buildings in the VA-95 complex located at Boston Boulevard and Fullerton Road in Springfield, Virginia and other locations at 1801 N. Beauregard Street in Alexandria, 6350 Walker Lane in Springfield, 7799 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church, 13990 Park East Circle in Chantilly, and 5971 Kingstowne Village Parkway in Alexandria, Virginia at a proposed total annual cost of

\$21,918,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 124 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in

an overall utilization rate of 124 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NORTHERN, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA17
Congressional Districts: 8, 10, 11

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease for approximately 562,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Information Technology (OIT), currently located in leased space in 11 separate buildings dispersed across six locations including six buildings in the VA-95 complex located at Boston Boulevard and Fullerton Road in Springfield, VA. Other locations are 1801 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA; 6350 Walker Lane, Springfield, VA; 7799 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA; 13990 Park East Circle, Chantilly, VA; and 5971 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Alexandria, VA.

The lease will enable DHS/CBP/OIT to provide continued housing as well as more modern, streamlined, and efficient operations. It will significantly improve space utilization, as the office utilization rate will be improved from 113 to 64 usable square feet (USF) per person, and the overall utilization rate from 184 to 124 USF per person, reducing the DHS/CBP/OIT footprint for this occupancy by approximately 67,680 RSF.

Description

Occupant:	Customs and Border Protection
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	629,680 (Current RSF/USF = 1.08)
Proposed Maximum RSF ¹ :	562,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	67,680 (Reduction)
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	184
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	124
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 years
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	09/30/19, 08/01/20, 12/07/20, 12/31/20, 5/31/21, 08/10/21
Delineated Area:	Northern Virginia
Number of Official Parking Spaces ² :	4
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ³ :	\$39.00/RSF

¹ The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.08; however, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.20 is used for the proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

² OIT security requirements may necessitate control of the parking at the leased location. This may be accomplished as a lessor-furnished service, as a separate operating agreement with the lessor, or as part of the Government's leasehold interest in the building.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NORTHERN, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA17
Congressional Districts: 8, 10, 11

Proposed Total Annual Cost ⁴ :	\$21,918,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$17,079,000 (Leases effective: 10/01/94, 12/08/00, 01/17/02, 07/15/02, 08/02/05, 11/14/07, 11/21/08, 02/02/09, 06/01/11, and 08/11/11)

Background

OIT is responsible for implementation and support of information technology, research and development functions, and automation and technological strategies for meeting mission-related needs. OIT is responsible for automated information systems, management of the research and development functions, and all forensic and laboratory support of CBP. OIT personnel manage all computer and related resources and establish requirements for computer interfaces between CBP and various trade groups and Government agencies. OIT is responsible for managing all aspects of tactical communications, including the 24/7 operations of the National Law Enforcement Communications Center and Continuity of Operations Planning.

Justification

OIT's mission is to be responsible for all aspects of technology support across all mission areas within CBP. This CBP component designs, develops, programs, tests, implements, trains, and maintains the agency's automated systems. OIT is responsible for managing CBP computer facilities, including all the hardware, software, data, video and voice communications, and related financial resources. OIT develops and maintains the Enterprise Information System Architecture and administers the operational aspects of the CBP Computer Security Program. OIT also represents CBP on matters related to automated import, export, and interagency processing and systems development.

³ These estimates are for fiscal year 2017 and may be escalated by 1.95 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rates are fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

⁴ New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NORTHERN, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA17
Congressional Districts: 8, 10, 11

The current leases are for space in 11 separate buildings in Northern Virginia and expire between September 30, 2019 and August 10, 2021. OIT requires continued housing to carry out its operational mission and functions. The total space requested will reduce the OIT footprint by 67,680 RSF or more than 10 percent of the 629,680 RSF currently occupied. In the absence of this reduction, the status quo cost of continued occupancy at the proposed market rental rate would be at least \$24.6 million per year.

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize the flexibility and competition in acquiring space to house the DHS/CBP/OIT elements, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NORTHERN, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA17
Congressional Districts: 8, 10, 11

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 15, 2016

Recommended: 

Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: 

Administrator, General Services Administration

November 2015

**Housing Plan
Department of Homeland Security
Customs and Border Protection
Office of Information Technology**

PVA-01-WA17
Northern, VA

Leased Locations	CURRENT						PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
1801 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria VA	541	541	75,427	870	9,102	85,399						
6350 Walker Lane, Springfield, VA	472	472	65,647	98	8,681	74,426						
7799 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA	315	315	73,104	160	12,638	85,902						
7375 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	112	112	13,270	167	2,562	15,999						
7451 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	78	78	12,397	61	3,293	15,751						
7435 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	86	86	14,771	-	2,705	17,476						
7501 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	411	411	59,272	215	16,269	75,756						
7400 Fullerton Road, Springfield, VA	126	126	18,029	522	4,635	23,186						
13990 Parkeast Circle, Chantilly, VA	144	144	38,984	284	3,740	43,008						
5971 Kingstowne Village Pkwy, Alexandria, VA	427	427	41,125	433	3,128	44,686						
7681 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	527	527	57,061	-	42,094	99,155						
Proposed							3,783	3,783	310,327	17,576	140,388	468,291
Total	3,239	3,239	469,087	2,810	108,847	580,744	3,783	3,783	310,327	17,576	140,388	468,291

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	113	64

UR=average amount of office space per person

Current UR excludes 103,199 usf of office support space

Proposed UR excludes 68,272 usf of office support space

Overall UR ³		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	184	124

R/U Factor ⁴			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	580,744	1.08	629,680
Proposed	468,291	1.20	562,000

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

Special Space	USF
Conference	21,382
Training	8,516
LAN / Telco	13,741
File Room	5,980
Break / Food	8,057
Shower / Locker	906
Supply / Copy / Print Rooms	8,516
Lab	13,335
Reception	1,812
Lactation Room	544
HSDN/SCIF	2,748
Data Center	37,124
Security	2,899
TOC / Sit Rooms	6,054
Mail Room	2,174
EOC	6,600
Total	140,388

H7366

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

December 7, 2016

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
ATLANTA, GA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 162,000 rentable square feet of space, including 27 official parking spaces, for the Food and Drug Administration currently located at the FDA Atlanta complex consisting of three leased buildings; Crawford Building, Annex I and Annex II, and an additional lease location in College Park, Georgia at a proposed total annual cost of \$5,994,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 322 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 322 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
ATLANTA, GA**

Prospectus Number: PGA-01-AT17
Congressional District: 5

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 162,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), currently housed at the FDA Atlanta complex consisting of three leased buildings; The Crawford Building, Annex I and Annex II, and an additional lease location in College Park, Georgia, at the Gateway Center Building One.

The proposed lease will provide continued housing for FDA and will improve the office utilization rate from 176 to 103 usable square feet (USF) per person.

Description

Occupant:	Food and Drug Administration
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	134,491 (Current RSF/USF = 1.15)
Estimated Maximum RSF:	162,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.15)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	27,509 (expansion)
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	292
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	322
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	20 Years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	11/24/2017, 12/30/2017, and 7/31/2022
Delineated Area:	Atlanta Midtown Business District
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	27 secured
Scoring:	Operating lease
Estimated Rental Rate ¹ :	\$37.00/RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost ² :	\$5,994,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$5,863,625 (Leases effective 11/25/2005, 12/31/1997, 8/1/2012)

¹ This estimate is for Fiscal Year 2019 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the government.

² New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
ATLANTA, GA**

Prospectus Number: PGA-01-AT17

Congressional District: 5

Justification

The current leases are unable to provide the FDA Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta District Office, and Southeast Regional Laboratories (SRL) with the necessary office and special space to efficiently carry out its mission. The new lease will provide a more modern and streamlined office layout and improve office utilization from 176 square feet per person to 103 square feet per person.

SRL testing includes foods, ceramics, meats, cosmetics, drugs, and other products falling under the purview of the FDA. In addition, the SRL has specialized capabilities and is home to the Atlanta Center for Nutrient Analysis, which is the servicing laboratory to all FDA districts for nutrient analysis on domestic and imported foods that bear nutrition labeling. The size of the existing SRL causes the FDA to constantly retro-fit the aging space, leading to higher maintenance costs. A modern laboratory is needed to properly carry out its mission.

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize the flexibility in acquiring space to house the FDA elements, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
ATLANTA, GA**

Prospectus Number: PGA-01-AT17
Congressional District: 5

Interim Leasing


GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed lease is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on SEP 13 2016

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Administrator, General Services Administration

April 2016

Housing Plan
Food and Drug Administration

PGA-01-AT17
Atlanta, GA

December 7, 2016

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H7371

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
Crawford and Annex I	104	177	28,224	5,927	28,649	62,800	-	-	-	-	-	-
Annex II	-	159	-	-	44,470	44,470	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gateway Center Building One	65	65	9,821	-	-	9,821	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease							437	437	57,477	-	83,365	140,842
Total	169	401	38,045	5,927	73,119	117,091	437	437	57,477	-	83,365	140,842

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	176	103

UR=average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 73,119 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 65,039 usf of office support space

Overall UR ³		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	292	322

R/U Factor ⁴			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	117,091	1.15	134,491
Estimated/Proposed	140,842	1.15	162,000

Special Space	USF
Laboratory	73,345
Conference/Training	6,850
Food Service/Break Areas	2,220
Health Unit	100
Fitness Center	400
Lockerroom	450
Total	83,365

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people

³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.

⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

AMENDED COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
LEASE—NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 806,794 rentable square feet of space, including 142 official parking spaces, for the National Archives and Records Administration, Federal Records Center currently located at 200 NW Space Center in Lee's Summit, Missouri at a proposed total annual cost of \$5,647,558 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution amends the resolution adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on September 14, 2016.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an office utilization rate of 129 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the office utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an office utilization rate of 129 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON
COUNTY, KANSAS**

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-LS17
Congressional District: MO 05, 06, KS 03

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 806,794 rentable square feet (RSF) for the National Archives and Records Administration – Federal Records Center (NARA-FRC), currently located at 200 NW Space Center, Lee's Summit, MO.

The lease will provide continued housing for NARA-FRC, will maintain its current office utilization rate of 129 usable square feet (USF) per person, and allow for continued temporary and permanent record storage capabilities for Federal agencies.

Description

Occupant:	National Archives and Records Administration
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	806,794 (Current RSF/USF = 1.00)
Estimated Maximum RSF:	806,794 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.00)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	129
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	129
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	20 Years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	8/14/2017
Delineated Area:	Jackson and Clay Counties, Missouri, and Johnson County, Kansas
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	142
Scoring:	Operating lease
Estimated Rental Rate ¹ :	\$7.00 / RSF

¹This estimate is for fiscal year 2017 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON
COUNTY, KANSAS**

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-LS17
Congressional District: MO 05, 06, KS 03

Estimated Total Annual Cost ² :	\$5,647,558
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$3,211,969 (Lease effective 8/15/1997)

Acquisition Strategy

The NARA-FRC is currently located in subterranean space. In order to maximize competition, GSA will consider aboveground and subterranean space for this procurement and will relocate the agency if economically advantageous to the Federal Government.

Justification

NARA-FRC is one of 18 Federal Records Centers across the nation used by Federal agencies for records-related services. The FRCs work together to provide temporary and permanent record storage services. The facility storage services are full at this location and any new incoming client boxes are accommodated by moving existing records to other Federal Records Centers or by the disposal of eligible records. The current location provides storage conditions that meet permanent or archival requirements, which accounts for 57 percent of permanent record storage.

NARA-FRC requires space to accommodate the movement, processing, and retrieving of large quantities of client record boxes into its computer systems, along with the ability to store client records in an environment that meets regulations for Federal Records Storage (36 CFR 1234). The movement of client record boxes is accommodated using eight-foot carts, which require ample circulation space for maneuvering. Although Federal agencies are attempting to convert to electronic storage, the demand for paper record storage still remains and since 2000 has grown by 2.38 percent per year.

²New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON
COUNTY, KANSAS**

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-LS17
Congressional District: MO 05, 06, KS 03

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON
COUNTY, KANSAS**

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-LS17
Congressional District: MO 05, 06, KS 03

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

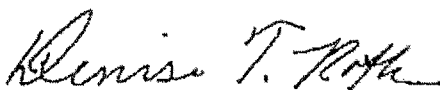
Submitted at Washington, DC, on August 9, 2016

Recommended: _____



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Administrator, General Services Administration

October 2015

Housing Plan
National Archives And Records Administration

PMO-01-LS17
Jackson and Clay Counties, MO
and Johnson County, KS

December 7, 2016

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H7377

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
200 NW Space Center	58	65	9,586	2,600	794,608	806,794						
Estimated/Proposed Lease							58	65	9,586	2,600	794,608	806,794
Total	58	65	9,586	2,600	794,608	806,794	58	65	9,586	2,600	794,608	806,794

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	129	129

UR=average amount of office space per person

Current UR excludes 2,109 usf of office support space

Proposed UR excludes 2,109 usf of office support space

Overall UR ³		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	N/A	N/A

R/U Factor ⁴	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	806,794	1.00	806,794
Estimated/Proposed	806,794	1.00	806,794

Special Space	USF
Warehouse	787,705
Automatic Data Processing	512
Conference/Training	1,252
Food Service	2,109
Janitorial Closet	186
Laboratory	301
Restrooms	1,315
Mail Receiving	702
Workroom	209
File & Copy	317
Total	794,608

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people. Circulation requirement of 40% for movement/processing of client storage above the normal 22%, moved extra circulation to storage.

³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.

⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH,
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTIES,
MD

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 238,000 rentable square feet of space, including 5 official parking spaces, for the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health currently located at 6001 and 6101 Executive Boulevard in Rockville, Maryland at a proposed total annual cost of \$8,330,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 183 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 183 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA17

Congressional District: 8

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 238,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Department of Health and Human Services - National Institutes of Health (NIH), currently located at 6001 and 6101 Executive Boulevard in Rockville, MD, under five NIH direct leases. The four leases at 6001 Executive Boulevard expire on January 31, 2019, and the one lease at 6101 Executive Boulevard expires on August 31, 2019.

The proposed lease will enable NIH to provide continued housing. The lease will significantly improve space utilization, as the office utilization rate will be reduced from 172 to 133 usable square feet (USF) per person, and the overall utilization rate from 221 to 183 USF per person, resulting in NIH being housed in approximately 31,632 RSF less space than it has at the current locations.

Description

Occupant:	National Institutes of Health
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF):	269,632 (Current RSF/USF = 1.22)
Estimated Maximum RSF:	238,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	31,632 (Reduction)
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	221
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	183
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	15 Years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	1/31/2019, 8/31/2019
Delineated Area:	Portions of Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties proximate to the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	5
Scoring:	Operating lease
Estimated Proposed Rental Rate ¹ :	\$35.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost ² :	\$8,330,000

¹ This estimate is for fiscal year 2018 and may be escalated by 1.95 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA17
Congressional District: 8

Current Total Annual Cost: \$8,314,990

Justification

The multiple NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) located at 6001 and 6101 Executive Boulevard include the National Institute of Drug Abuse, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders, Office of Director-Office of Strategic Coordination, and the Office of Research Services, and are integral components of NIH’s mission. The current leases expire on January 31, 2019, and August 31, 2019. NIH ICs have a continuing need for space and efficient transportation access to the NIH campus in Montgomery County. The lease will streamline operations and improve NIH’s footprint by 31,632 rsf. In the absence of this reduction, the status quo cost of continued occupancy at the existing footprint would be \$9,437,120.

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize the flexibility in acquiring space to house the NIH elements, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation in up to two proximate buildings that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

²New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA17

Congressional District: 8

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA17
Congressional District: 8

Certification of Need

The proposed lease is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on August 19, 2016

Recommended: _____



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Administrator, General Services Administration

October 2015

Housing Plan
National Institutes of Health

PMD-01-WA17
Montgomery County, MD

December 7, 2016

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H7383

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
6001 Executive Boulevard	905	905	203,000	-	-	203,000						-
6101 Executive Boulevard	93	93	16,843		1,205	18,048						
Estimated/Proposed Lease							1,084	1,084	184,280		14,000	198,280
Total	998	998	219,843	-	1,205	221,048	1,084	1,084	184,280	-	14,000	198,280

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	172	133

UR=average amount of office space per person

Current UR excludes 48,365 usf of office support space

Proposed UR excludes 40,542 usf of office support space

Special Space	USF
Data Center and Support Center	4,000
Conference Center	10,000
Total	14,000

Overall UR ³		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	221	183

R/U Factor ⁴	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	221,048	1.22	269,632
Estimated/Proposed	198,280	1.20	238,000

NOTES:

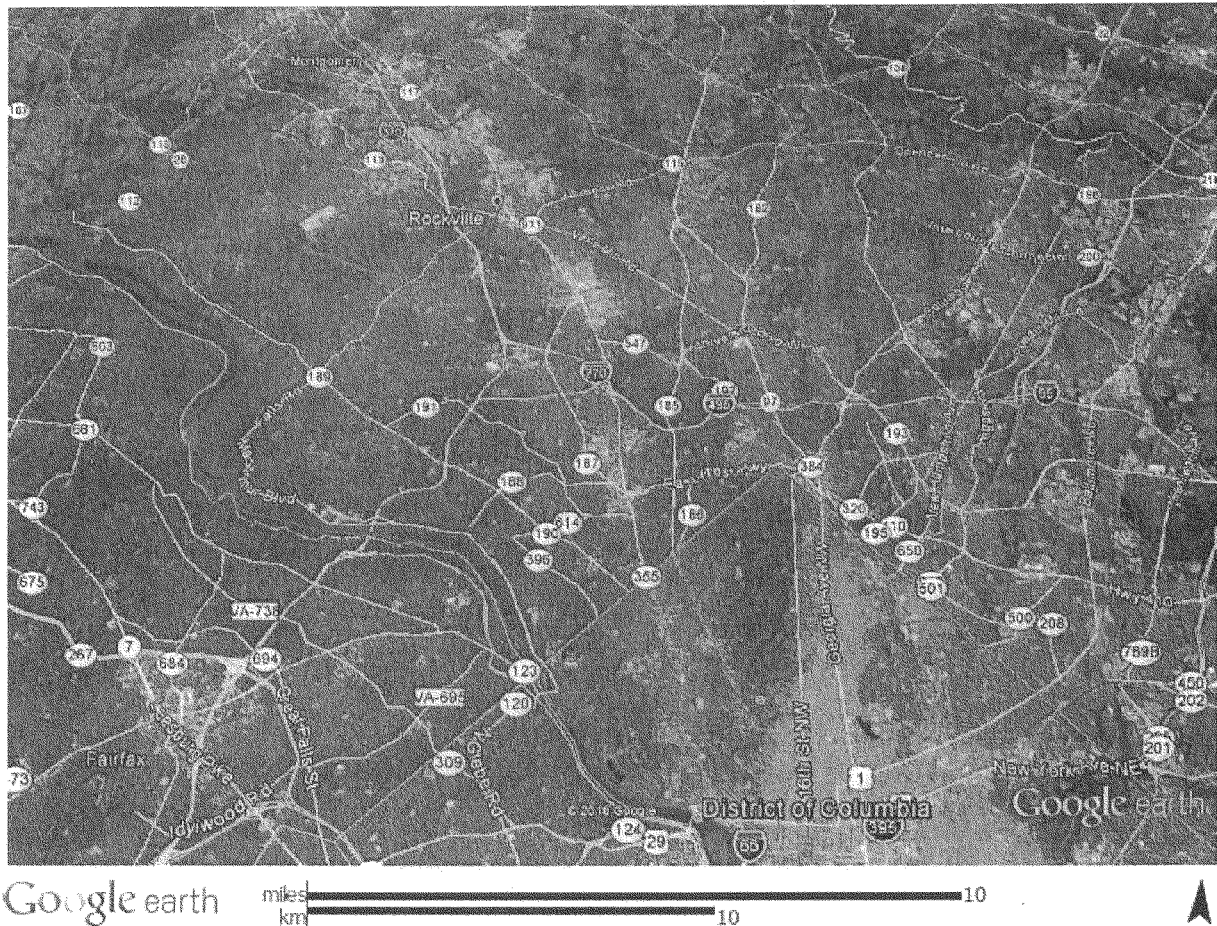
¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people

³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.

⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

Prospectus PMD-01-WA17 Map and Narrative



Within Montgomery and Prince George's counties as further delineated as follows:
 Beginning at the intersection of the Potomac River and the W city boundary of Washington, DC (POB); NW along the Potomac River to Riley's Lock Road; North on Riley's Lock Road to River Road; East along River Road and continuing along Seneca Road (aka Rte 112); NE along Seneca Road to Darnestown Road (aka Rte 28); NE then SE along Darnestown Road to Muddy Branch Road; North along Muddy Branch Road to Great Seneca Highway (aka Rte 119); SE along Great Seneca Highway to Sam Eig Highway (aka I-370); NE along Sam Eig Highway and continuing E along the Intercounty Connector to Baltimore Avenue (aka Rte 1); SW along Baltimore Avenue to Powder Mill Road (Rte 212); East along Powder Mill Road to Edmonston Road (Rte 201); S along Edmonston Road, becoming Kenilworth Avenue (Rte 201) to Annapolis Road (Rte 450); W along Annapolis Road to Bladensburg Road (Alt Rte 1); W on Bladensburg Road to the E city boundary of Washington, DC; NW along the E city boundary of Washington, DC becoming Eastern Avenue NE to Western Avenue NW and the W city boundary of Washington, DC; SW along Western Avenue NW to with POB.

There was no objection.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH R. PITTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE).

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, what an honor it is to join my colleagues this evening in taking a moment to honor my good friend and fellow alum from Asbury College, Pennsylvania Congressman JOE PITTS.

My friend, JOE PITTS, has spent his life literally engaged in serving those around him. In fact, early in his career, JOE and his wife worked as teachers to educate the next generation until he joined the Air Force in 1963. He answered the call of duty, serving three tours in Vietnam, where he completed 116 combat missions and earned the Air Medal with five oakleaf clusters.

Just a few years after returning home from the war effort, JOE continued his service in his State and our Nation as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, spending some 24 years assisting his fellow Pennsylvanians.

In 1997, JOE brought his leadership skills and his servant's heart right here to the Halls of Congress, where he has now served for 20 years.

□ 1915

In this role and through his service as chairman of the Values Action Team, JOE has been a guiding force for bringing our Judeo-Christian ethics and moral values to Washington, D.C., and he has literally been a champion for the cause of life.

In Mark, chapter 10, the Lord tells us that those who aspire to leadership must be great servants. Further, in Matthew, chapter 7, we find that we are recognized by our fruits.

In other words, you can tell who someone is not merely by what one says, but by what one does.

JOE, I would just say to you, sir, thank you. You have been tested, and you have shown yourself approved.

We are all going to sincerely and deeply—genuinely—miss JOE PITTS.

I hope, JOE, that as you continue in your next chapter that, in your absence here, we may each have a portion of your servant's heart, and how blessed this body will be if we do so.

I just thank the gentleman so much for the opportunity to take a moment to say "thank you" to this giant of a leader here in Congress and how we will deeply miss him.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for his very eloquent remarks about our great friend and colleague, the distinguished JOE PITTS.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama, ROBERT ADERHOLT.

Mr. ADERHOLT. I appreciate the time to come to honor JOE PITTS. Congressman SMITH, I appreciate your organizing this evening so we could thank JOE PITTS for his many years of service to not only this Chamber, but also to the public in general.

Madam Speaker, of course, JOE is retiring after 20 years of service to this institution and to the American people. He served, as has been said, 24 years in the Pennsylvania Legislature. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, JOE PITTS, is a hero for conservatives. He fights daily for families, for unborn children, and for persecuted Christians around the world.

I know firsthand about his work for persecuted Christians because one of the first overseas trip opportunities that I had as a Member of Congress was to travel with JOE PITTS to the country of Egypt to advocate on behalf of persecuted Christians. I had the chance to sit there with JOE as we both talked about the plight of the Coptic Christians in the country of Egypt. We sat across the table from Hosni Mubarak, who, at the time, was the President of Egypt, and we let him know of the concerns that we had and that the American people had for Christians who were treated unfairly for no other reason than because of their beliefs and their faith.

JOE PITTS has been a friend and a colleague since we were first elected. He and I were first elected back in 1996. We started here in January of 1997. He has worked tirelessly as chairman of the Values Action Team since the late 1990s. That was when Newt Gingrich had asked him to work on pro-life, pro-family issues. He has been an active, leading member of the Pro-Life Caucus, along with Congressman SMITH, since that time.

I also had the opportunity to work with JOE on OSCE issues, the Organization for Security and Co-operation of Europe. We would meet in the parliamentary assembly once a year with other parliamentarians to try to work on issues. I can tell you the pro-life issue and trying to protect the unborn and the family has been at the forefront of those issues with him as well with the OSCE.

I want to take a minute to thank his staff. Over the years, they have worked hand in glove with Congressman PITTS. They have been champions for the conservative causes over the last 20 years alone here in the House of Representatives, and we will certainly miss working with them as they go on to the next chapters of their lives.

Again, I wish JOE PITTS all the best as he moves on to the next phase of his life. I certainly pray that he and his wife, Ginny, will have, maybe, a slightly slower pace as they go back to Pennsylvania. I know that JOE, in whatever next chapter of life he is involved, will be involved in protecting families; he will be protecting the unborn—the most vulnerable—and he will be making sure that he does what he feels is in

the best interest of this country. I wish JOE PITTS and his family all the best in the many years to come.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Tennessee, DIANE BLACK.

Mrs. BLACK. I thank the gentleman for yielding, my good friend, who is also very involved in protecting life and families, and I appreciate his work in this area as well.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and colleague, Congressman JOE PITTS, on his upcoming retirement from the House of Representatives.

As a former teacher, Congressman PITTS spent years investing in the next generation of leaders, and as an Air Force captain, with three tours of duty in Vietnam, he was on the front lines of protecting the freedoms that we talk about in this Chamber every day.

His service in Congress, now spanning nearly 20 years, will be marked by a quiet strength and a steady leadership that always sought solutions over attention, and that ran towards answers instead of running to the cameras. Congressman PITTS was never the loudest person in the room, but oftentimes he may very well have been the wisest.

As the founder of the Values Action Team, Congressman PITTS created a platform to build stronger relationships between value-oriented Members of Congress and grassroots organizations that shared those same principles. Through his appointment as the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, Congressman PITTS worked to advance real-world healthcare solutions that empowered patients, not bureaucrats.

I will always be most grateful to Congressman PITTS for his fearless, unflinching defense of our Nation's unborn. From his own legislation, like Protect Life Act, to his invaluable leadership in the fight to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, to his work on the Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives, Congressman PITTS has been a champion for the voiceless and vulnerable at every turn.

I thank Congressman PITTS for his service, for his friendship, for his guidance. I wish him and his wife, Ginny, and his beautiful family all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentlewoman very much for those very, very eloquent remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois, RANDY HULTGREN.

Mr. HULTGREN. I thank my very good friend, CHRIS SMITH, for doing this.

Madam Speaker, it is such a privilege to serve in this amazing place. Some of us have the opportunity—really, the blessing—to be able to meet our heroes. Some of us have the greater blessing of being able to actually not only get to meet them, but to work with our heroes; and those very special few get to

become friends with our heroes. That is the feeling I have with JOE PITTS.

JOE PITTS is truly a mentor to me, a hero to me, someone who has served so well in every step of his lifetime. I am here to honor him tonight, to thank him for his service, and to let him know that we are forever grateful.

JOE PITTS is known for many things. Clearly, he is a man of faith. Faith is such a part of his life—his love for God, his love for Jesus Christ. His passion for serving Him influences everything he does. I also love JOE PITTS' commitment and love for his family. JOE and his wife have had a long tradition—for many years—of having grandkids camp, where they will have grandkids—no parents allowed—come and be with them for a week. They will take special trips, do special training, raise up the grandkids to love God, to love this Nation, and to share the values that are so important to JOE and his family.

I am also so grateful for his service here in this Congress. JOE has been faithful over his years. He was tapped early on to be the leader of the Values Action Team so as to recognize that our values are so important. We need champions every single day to be looking out and to be making sure that we are passing legislation that reflects our values—the values of our Founders, the values of so many who have led throughout our Nation—and to be making sure that we are going in the right direction as we go forward. JOE has been faithful there as well—a champion for life, a champion for the persecuted, especially for the religious persecuted around the world. He has been fighting for them, stepping up for them, making sure that their voices are heard. Fighting for the unborn is something that is a passion—a big part—of JOE's life as well.

I am forever grateful to have had the privilege not only to meet JOE PITTS, to get to know JOE PITTS, but to say that JOE is a friend of mine.

JOE, thank you for your service to America. Thank you for your love for your God and for your family. Thank you for all that you have done to make America this wonderful place and for leaving not only a heritage, but such a rich challenge as we go forward to protect the wonderful values that we enjoy. We appreciate you. God bless you, JOE, and God bless America.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman from Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. I thank Mr. SMITH. I really appreciate his efforts in honoring JOE PITTS here tonight and all of the gentleman's efforts over the many years in sticking up for the values that really are important; so I thank the gentleman for that.

Madam Speaker, indeed, it is a night to recognize our leader of the Values Action Team, Mr. JOE PITTS, and all of his dedication to these important causes for our values, which are the

things that, I like to say, are going to be remembered long past all the other stuff we do—the fiscal-related things and some other things—that nobody will remember. I like to think they will remember that we stood up for the things that were truly important to families, to the things that endure over time; so being able to join in tonight in recognizing our friend from Pennsylvania is a privilege for me as it was to be able—and it is—to work with JOE.

Over the few short years I have been in the House, I have gotten to know what he is about, and I respect him greatly as a man of faith and courage in standing against the tide that is pretty unpopular these days, a lot of times, in this era of political correctness where what is up is down and what is down is up. He stood in there on some very difficult issues—on life, on basic liberties, on moral conscience, and even on religious conscience. He joined in on some issues from crazy California sometimes, where I come from, in helping to fight a battle there that would allow people to have religious freedom and freedom of conscience. Again, I think a cornerstone of the founding of this country has been lost a lot of times here, in recent reinterpretations, as to what I think true, traditional values are.

He has given that voice to the unborn. He stood side by side with the Little Sisters of the Poor in their direct fight for religious liberty. He defended the conscience of Americans who should never be forced to finance something that goes against one of the very principles our Nation was founded on—life—with their religious convictions.

JOE PITTS, when it comes down to protecting conservative values in our government or outside of it, there was no issue too small, too insignificant, or anything that he would shy away from. Indeed, he inspires us to be bold, to stand up for those who can't always speak for themselves or who have been beaten down by political correctness to even be able to speak for themselves. We need these conservative values. We need visions like JOE PITTS has always exhibited. To have been able to have worked beside him these years I have been here in the House, it has been a privilege, and I appreciate his work and his courage in being fearless against a tide that sometimes I can't understand.

At the end of all of this, I think some of the most rewarding words and the ones that we can try and express here tonight—but that will be expressed in a bigger place—is: well done, good and faithful servant.

God bless JOE PITTS. Again, we thank him for his service on the Values Action Team and for all he has stood for, and I am proud to be able to stand beside him.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend from California for his very, very fine remarks.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, as there are a number of Members who would like to submit, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, it is hard to imagine a Congress without the incomparable JOE PITTS—a remarkable and highly accomplished lawmaker, a distinguished statesman, a man of principle and bedrock moral conviction and a Christian, who faithfully seeks to do God's will on Earth as it is in Heaven no matter the cost, no matter the sacrifice, no matter the hardship.

□ 1930

As I think some of my colleagues know—particularly those who know him well—JOE was born in Kentucky into a family of strong Christian faith, a faith that has been passed on to his own three children; Carol, Karen, and Daniel.

JOE's father was an Army chaplain during World War II, serving in the South Pacific after the war. The elder Pitts returned to the Philippines with his wife and children to serve as a missionary in a war-ravaged country. It was there that JOE saw the after effects of war; and that so profoundly affected him, he developed a heart there for human rights and a commitment to a strong national defense.

After high school, JOE attended Asbury College in Kentucky, as my friend and colleague earlier pointed out. He met Virginia—Ginny, as we know her—a wonderful lady. My wife Marie and I and JOE and Ginny have traveled and have been together many times. She is just a wonderful wife of a half a century. Again, they not only have three children but a number of grandchildren as well.

JOE taught math, science, English, and physical education, as well as coached basketball. He served 5½ years in the United States Air Force, including three tours in Vietnam. He was the EW officer, electronic warfare officer, on a B-52 and completed 116 combat missions and earned the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters.

Here in Washington, JOE has worked hard helping political prisoners, including people like Saeed Abedini and other Christian and non-Christian—Jewish and other religious and political prisoners around the world.

He has been tenacious in promoting prayer breakfasts all around the world so that members of parliaments and congresses from many countries would know the blessings of fellowship and prayer and being in touch with God.

He even traveled to Mongolia for the first prayer breakfast in the late 1990s.

JOE leads an ambassadors' prayer breakfast fellowship at the Cedars, right nearby in northern Virginia. I have had the privilege to join him for those breakfasts on occasions. It is a time for ambassadors to get together from all over the world—different regions meeting at different times, sometimes many from many regions—to break bread, to talk about the Scriptures with some emphasis on policy but mostly about how God does minister to us, how forgiving He is, and how all of us are in need of reconciliation. And JOE PITTS is there leading that fellowship and has been doing it for decades.

JOE has been a leader in the fight against ongoing human rights abuses in Western Sahara and elsewhere. He is co-chair of the Lantos Human Rights Commission. And in Congress, of course, we know he has served in a number of key leadership positions, including his current position as chairman of the Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, obviously working on so many important issues on diseases and disabilities. Top officials from the healthcare system present themselves before his committee for his review and oversight. He has been a problem-solver—he and his staff, working across the aisle to try to find solutions to these often vexing issues of health care.

On the greatest human rights issue of our time—protecting unborn babies and their mothers from the violence of abortion—JOE PITTS has not only saved countless precious lives and fostered reconciliation and hope for post-abortive women, but he has also been an extraordinary inspiration to all of us in Congress.

The way he comports himself. He never gets angry. He deals with the issue in a way that reaches out to people who may have a different view in the hopes that they will see the wisdom of protecting the innocent and most vulnerable.

JOE has been a leader on every pro-life congressional policy—bills, amendments, administrative actions—since he won his seat in Congress in 1996. We are grateful for his powerful voice and vote on ending the hideous method called partial birth abortion; enacting multiple annual abortion funding bans; proscribing sex selection abortion, which is the ultimate violation of women's rights to say: you are susceptible to killing because you happen to be female; protecting pain-capable unborn children as well as born-alive infants; and enforcing the conscience rights of pro-life Americans has been remarkable. His leadership has been remarkable.

Had the Senate adopted the House-passed Pitts-Stupak amendment, ObamaCare, with all of its egregious flaws, would have at least been abortion-free.

JOE PITTS has been the greatest friend and ally of persons with disabilities, including his robust defense of Terri Schiavo.

His service in the Pennsylvania General Assembly from 1973–1997, including

his chairmanship of the powerful Appropriations Committee, to which he was elected by his peers, was filled with accomplishments, including his bold leadership in enacting the Abortion Control Act.

Someday future generations will look back on America's culture of death and wonder how and why a seemingly enlightened society, so blessed with civil rights protections, wealth, educational opportunities, information, medical breakthroughs, a free press, and a strong and diverse faith community could have allowed 60 million unborn children to be killed by abortion.

When the day comes and legal protections for the weak and the most vulnerable are restored, I believe future generations of Americans will remember and celebrate the tenacious heroes, the human rights heroes of today, people like Henry Hyde, compassionate women like Mother Teresa, and JOE PITTS, who persevered, prayed, and worked tenaciously on behalf of the least of these.

St. Francis once famously said: Always preach the gospel, and when necessary, use words.

By his example, by his perpetual radiating of Christ—just look at his eyes; there is kindness and compassion and empathy in JOE PITTS' eyes—he has inspired all of us to strive to do His will on Earth, as it is in Heaven. And it is a distinct privilege and honor to be known as one of JOE PITTS' friends.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. ROTHFUS. Madam Speaker, JOE PITTS is a man whose faith and values, I believe, animate him to protect life in all its stages. Through his decades of service both in the military and public office—and as a dedicated husband and dad—Congressman JOE PITTS has nurtured, protected, and preserved the lives of others.

First, as a young married man and a public school teacher, he nurtured the intellectual life of his students.

Then, so that he could better support his wife and children, he signed up for Officer Training School.

As an Air Force Captain, he did three tours in Vietnam over a five and a half year period, completing 116 combat missions throughout that time, and earning an Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters. Once again, JOE risked his own life to protect the lives of others.

After retiring from military service, JOE returned to teaching, and in 1972, he commenced his 24-year tenure as a PA State Representative, where he was known for being a key advocate of the 1990 Abortion Control Act.

In 1997, JOE became a member of Congress, and understanding that from the family springs new life, he was asked to chair the pro-family Values Action Team.

Throughout his service at the state and federal level, he has worked to improve the lives of others by exercising fiscal responsibility. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, he fought to improve our military readiness, so that our service members can better protect American lives.

I know that each of us here today honoring JOE feel that he has touched our lives, both as a colleague and as a friend. He has touched the lives of countless others through his service.

I wish him all the best in the years to come, and, after decades of serving the lives of others, that he enjoys time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

RETIRING MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to be here this evening to talk about the remarkable records of five individuals who are retiring from the Congress. I have had the honor of chairing the California Democratic delegation for many years; and these five Members—Representative SAM FARR, Representative LOIS CAPPS, Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ, Representative MIKE HONDA, and Representative Janice Hahn—are going home to California after serving distinguished careers here in the House.

THE HONORABLE SAM FARR

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I will start with my near neighbor, who has served since 1993. He came in in a special election, and that is Congressman SAM FARR. He has honorably represented the central coast of California for more than 40 years and here in Congress for the last 23.

SAM was born and raised in the Monterey County area. Before his service here in the House, he early on served in the Peace Corps in Colombia, and his wonderful fluent Spanish is a product of his Peace Corps service in Colombia. To this day, he has a special soft spot for that country.

As the ranking member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, he has championed safe and nutritious food for consumers, farmers, and producers. He has made sure that the need of getting fresh food into school lunches has never been far from our thoughts, and he has had remarkable success there, which has served the health of children across the country.

After serving in the Peace Corps, SAM represented his constituents on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors for 6 years. As a member of the Board of Supervisors, he continued to fight for environmental issues and for people who were disadvantaged. After that, he served in the California Legislature.

SAM founded the bipartisan House Oceans Caucus and authored the Oceans Act, which created the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

He is the longest serving Democrat on the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. And while he served on that subcommittee, he did something simply remarkable. We all know that

bases across the United States were closed under the BRAC system, and one of those bases was the Fort Ord military base. It is the biggest California base, and it left a hole in that county. What SAM did was, he worked with the local community to make sure that that base could be repurposed to good use, and he led the effort to make the Cal State University at Monterey a reality at Fort Ord.

SAM is a former chair of the congressional Democratic delegation and did such a great job when he chaired this group. He stands for peace, for diplomacy. SAM is always standing up for the little guy. And one of the things in addition to that is that he has been the photographer for House Democrats. Whenever we go anywhere, SAM is there with his camera, and we really don't know who is going to keep track of our activities when SAM retires.

We wish him well. We know he is going to have a great time in the serene beauty of the region where he grew up. He said: It is time to go home and be a grandpa. And we know that he is a wonderful grandpa.

THE HONORABLE LOIS CAPPs

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, LOIS CAPPs is also retiring. LOIS was sworn in on March 17, 1998. But I remember the day that her late husband, Walter Capps, passed away unexpectedly. She and Walter were on their way to the Capitol, and Walter passed away.

We had an unplanned Special Order here. We were all so shocked that that had happened. And LOIS was here with us. She later went on to run for the seat that her husband had represented really for a short time: Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and parts of Ventura County. She has represented that area with tremendous distinction.

You know, she will be the first to tell you, she never expected to be a Member of Congress. She is a former nurse, a public health advocate. She was a school nurse and still talks about the work she did as a school nurse with children. And when she got elected to Congress, she was committed to improving schools, to quality health care, and a cleaner environment. She built a legacy of commonsense solutions that have helped make her district, her State, and our country cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable.

And here is something not everyone knows; but when they hear it, it makes so much sense. She has been voted the nicest Member of Congress over and over again, and so she is.

She serves on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee and sits on the Health Subcommittee, the Energy and Power Subcommittee, as well as the Environment and the Economy Subcommittee. She has focused on Medicare reform, the nursing shortage, mental health, the protection of our air and water. She also serves on the House Natural Resources Committee.

LOIS is someone who not only serves with distinction but who is a warm friend. We will miss her greatly next

Congress, but we know that she deserves the retirement that she has earned, and she will be going home to her beautiful district.

THE HONORABLE LORETTA SANCHEZ

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, our colleague LORETTA SANCHEZ is a true trailblazer. Beginning with her election in 1996, where in then-Republican Orange County, she had an upset victory against former Representative Bob Dornan. She defeated Representative Dornan by less than 1,000 votes.

□ 1945

When she got here, she immediately tried to do what she could for the defense of this Nation. She has served honorably as a senior member on the House Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Homeland Security and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces. She is considered a leader on military and national security issues.

She is also the co-chair of the Congressional Women in the Military Caucus, where she advocated for female servicemembers to serve in combat roles, and she fought to end sexual assault in the Armed Forces.

She served on the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, where she made sure our Nation is prepared for anything, any missile or nuclear attack.

Another thing that I know so well about LORETTA is how much she cares about human rights, and specifically her advocacy for human rights in Vietnam. She and I have co-chaired the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam. She has gone to Vietnam, and she is a reliable, vocal, smart, and dedicated advocate for human rights, for religious freedom and labor rights for people in Vietnam.

Obviously a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, she served in the past as co-chair of the Immigration Task Force. She is a spectacular person. I will miss her a great deal, and I am thinking about who do I go to on the committee to talk about the nerdy but important things like the National Ignition Facility and big science projects that are also part of the armed services. She has served her country so well.

THE HONORABLE MIKE HONDA

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, MIKE HONDA will also be going home. I have had the honor of knowing MIKE HONDA for many decades. As a matter of fact, I think I first met MIKE when he was serving on the planning commission of the city of San Jose, appointed by then-Mayor Norm Mineta, who later became a Member of Congress. He was later elected to the San Jose Unified School Board, and then to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. In fact, MIKE and I served together on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Many of us know his history. During World War II, MIKE HONDA and his family spent 3 years imprisoned in an in-

ternment camp for Japanese Americans. That experience, I think, was the beginning of the fuel for his zeal in his fight for civil rights, for public service, and against discrimination. We will miss him because, although we have a very distinguished member in DORIS MATSUI, who was actually born in an internment camp, I believe that MIKE HONDA is the last of our Members who actually was old enough to remember being in that internment camp.

We have discussions in our country today about locking up people based on their ethnicity or their religious beliefs. It is important that people like MIKE HONDA can stand up and say America made a mistake. America apologized for that mistake. Let's never make that mistake again.

MIKE serves on the House Committee on Appropriations and is serving now as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. In that position, he played a key role with me and Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO in helping to locate the Patent Office in San Jose and to make sure that the Department of Justice has the resources to address the backlog in rape kits. He also serves on the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies.

He is chair emeritus of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the founding chair of the Congressional Caucus to End Bullying, the vice chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus. In fact, he spent many years fighting anti-Muslim bigotry and discrimination against the LGBT community.

THE HONORABLE JANICE HAHN

Ms. LOFGREN. Finally, I want to mention our friend Janice Hahn, who took office just, I think, this week as a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Janice was elected to Congress in 2011 and immediately made strong contributions to her district in a short time. But the story of Janice doesn't begin with her election to Congress. It begins long before that.

Her father, Supervisor Kenny Hahn, served longer as a member of the board of supervisors than anyone in the history of the United States; and Janice tells stories of growing up with her father and understanding that public service means getting down and actually talking with your constituents, providing direct services to them. He had a tremendous influence on her, and she served on the Los Angeles City Council before she ran for Congress successfully.

Here, Janice served on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where she did important things like helping to pass the National Freight Network Trust Fund Act to increase investments in port and freight network infrastructure. As

a result of her efforts, the harbor maintenance trust fund provided over \$1 billion in resources to operate more efficiently and remain globally competitive.

The Port of Long Beach, which she represented in Congress and now as a Los Angeles County supervisor, moves more than \$180 billion of goods each year and is the second busiest seaport in the United States. She has always made sure that that port got the resources necessary to be efficient not only for the need for business in her district, but recognizing that the goods that come through that port help support the economy across the United States.

She served also on the Committee on Small Business, where she worked to improve access to loans for small businesses to improve job creation. She co-founded the bipartisan Congressional Ports Opportunity, Renewal, Trade, and Security Caucus, the PORTS Caucus, and she also served with JIM COSTA and me on the California High-Speed Rail Caucus, where she championed the California high-speed rail project, which will improve transportation in California and reduce traffic congestion and airport wait times.

Janice Hahn is someone who really cared about her district in Congress, but her district in Congress is tiny compared to the district she represents on the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. We know that she will do a terrific job there.

Many also know her as someone who was very involved in the prayer breakfast movement here in Congress. She made many friends across the aisle as she did that, and we will miss her.

We know that we will see all of these fine individuals when we go home, as we do every week to California. Now before calling on my colleague Mr. FARR, I would also like to note that the timing of this was a little bit different than we had expected, and a lot of Members have statements.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield to SAM FARR.

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. This is probably the last time I rise on this floor to speak after 23 years of serving here. It may take me a little more than 5 minutes.

Ms. LOFGREN. That is all right.

Mr. FARR. My daughter is on the way with my grandkids, who are trying to watch this. Maybe we can delay it a little more than that.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Ms. LOFGREN for her leadership in the California delegation. She is the head of

the Democratic side of the aisle in our caucus from California, the largest caucus just the Democrats alone. I would just like to point out what the politics of the West has done since I first got elected in 1975.

I arrived here, and there were an even number of Democrats and Republicans representing California. Today there are 39 Democrats, and that is because the State has really shifted in their registration and voting. So the California Democratic delegation, it is interesting that ZOE is the chair of because it is the most diverse delegation in Congress: majority women, the highest delegation of Hispanics, of women, of Asians, and I would like to say with, MIKE HONDA and Mr. GARAMENDI and myself, the largest delegation of returned Peace Corps volunteers. It has been quite a change in the 23 years that I have been in Congress.

I first arrived in 1993. I was the last guy in the door here because Leon Panetta, my predecessor, had been elected in the 1992 election, sworn in to the Congress that January; and then when President Clinton was sworn in for his first term, he turned around and appointed Leon Panetta to be head of the Office of Management and Budget. Leon resigns on that day, notifies Governor Wilson, who declares a special election.

Interesting enough, in the special elections in California, it is an open election, so the highest vote getter from each party at the time would be in the runoff, and 27 people filed. I was in the state assembly. They said: You file and you will clear the field.

No, it didn't happen at all. It was quite a primary, and it ended up with a June election; and on June 15, I think I was sworn here, right in this very spot, to the United States Congress.

What was interesting is I was the 435th Member of Congress, the last person, and today I think my seniority ranks me around 50, from 51 to 55. So it takes 23 years to move from the bottom slot all the way up to the top 50 or so slots in this House. It has been a very interesting experience.

This truly is—and I have seen it through all the years—a representational democracy. There are all kinds of people in Congress with all kinds of issues: personal issues, family issues, financial issues. It really is representational of the society we live in. One thing in common is that they all want to serve the public; they want to serve this country.

That service, particularly in this House, because we are representatives, we serve districts. Madam Chair was a former county supervisor, as I was, and I like jokingly saying that, frankly, because we all serve districts, we are like 435 county supervisors back here. We are more concerned about our district than the whole country.

That is a strength for the constituents of the district, to be able to have direct access to their elected Members of Congress. It is probably a drawback

when you are trying to draw the whole country into a common purpose. It is very difficult to get at least 218 people to agree, and that is the challenge here.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Agriculture Committee, the Defense Committee, the Resources Committee, and, in the last 20 or so years, on the Appropriations Committee. It has been a wonderful experience because you are able to really get involved in the Appropriations Committee with all the details of running government.

I am ranking member, the chief Democrat on the Agriculture Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, and our budget for that committee is about the same as the entire budget for the State of California. That is an agency which was created by Abraham Lincoln. It was created to essentially deal with the home ec of westward expansion.

So all of the rural development, the rural poverty programs, are in the Department of Agriculture. Plus you have ag attaches in every Embassy in the United States, in the world. You have the commodities futures exchange. You have Wall Street. You have everything in that committee and it is really interesting, and the biggest feeding program through food stamps, the WIC program, Food for Peace, and so on.

I have been able to do a lot in changing policies so that we got fresh fruits and vegetables, and trying to get them in every school lunch program in the United States. That is good for California agriculture, and it is, more importantly, good for the kids of this Nation.

I have had the privilege of being, I think, the only one in this House to create a national park during my service. The Pinnacles National Park was the 59th national park created in the history of this country.

We have done a big expansion of ocean protection with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. We have created a visitors center for that sanctuary. We have created, for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, a center in Santa Cruz.

We have created a brand-new university out of the largest base closure that ever happened in the history of the United States, with the closure of Fort Ord. Cal State Monterey Bay is really up and coming, about 7,000 students, a great university, really reaching out to the underserved populations of California.

I have been able to raise the pay for Federal workers in my district, what they call the locality pay.

I have been able to, I think, save the Naval Postgraduate School and the Defense Language Institute from being closed or reorganized, realigned to other States. The list goes on and on.

I think what I am most proud of is the fact that I have had such incredible staff. I would just like to take a moment to tell you about Rochelle

Dornatt, my chief of staff, who has been with me for 23 years; Debbie Merrill; Troy Phillips; Tom Tucker; Sam Chiron; Dushani De Silva; Zoe Gentes, who is a Sea Grant fellow in my office; Rosie Julin; and Ana Sorrentino, who is my foreign service staffer.

□ 2000

On my district staff, Alec Arago, Carina Chavez, Nancy DeSerpa, Bertha Munoz, Kristen Petersen, and Alicia Castro. Kristen Petersen just got elected to the Capitola City Council.

All of these people are moving on as I leave tomorrow, and I am very excited that they were part of my life.

Just in closing, I would like to say that my daughter, Jessica, is here in the cloakroom, I hope, and she has with her my grandson, Zachary, and my granddaughter, Ella. I am so pleased that they could be here and share this moment with me.

Congress is a great experience. It is the check and balance. It is the initiator of new ideas. It is the people's House. And I just hope that as Member's face this next uncertainty of a new administration—there is always uncertainty, and probably more so now with the controversial election we had in this country, but I really hope that this House will rise to the occasion to not let the people down. We fight for all kinds of wonderful reasons. This House, the people's House, has really got to protect the people.

So I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time for me to make a few comments. I am sure that I will have a lot more that I would love to say, but I include in the RECORD a list that I have here of over 20 years of getting results for the 20th Congressional District.

OVER 20 YEARS OF GETTING RESULTS. . . .

Helping change things for the better while in Congress doesn't just mean passing bills, though Sam Farr did a lot of that. It means looking for every opportunity—to form partnerships, to push for White House involvement, to secure earmarks, and even on occasion, to block others from interfering in the district's welfare.

Sam Farr did all this while in Congress and will continue to do so until the day he leaves. There is never a time when Sam Farr is not working for the best interests of the community. He leaves an indelible mark on the district that will have long-term, wide-ranging impact now and far into the future.

Item	Approximate Date
Authorized federal organic standards legislation/law ..	2002
Got WH to include Salinas in its Violence Prevention strategy (to fight gangs) ..	2010–present.
Helped legislate the RCI program, which has rebuilt military housing at Fort Ord (now the Ord Military Community) ..	2001–ongoing.
Monterey Bay Sanctuary Trail ..	2001–present.
Obtained approval of VA cemetery at Fort Ord ..	1993–2014
NMFS lab in Santa Cruz ..	1996–2002
Provided approximately \$65 million, total, to underwrite the new CSUMB ..	1994–1999
Oceans 21/National Ocean Policy ..	2000/2014
Helped negotiate, then got \$\$ for Salinas Valley Water Reclamation project and the Castroville Water Intrusion project ..	1994–95
Opened up DU to civilian students on a selected, space-available basis ..	1994
Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus ..	1997–present.
White House Oceans Conference ..	1998
Prevented closure of local Social Security office ..	1999

Item	Approximate Date
Transfer of EDD-owned building via DOL to city of Salinas for child care center ..	1999
Creation of the center for stabilization and reconstruction studies; also a permanent office within the State Department ..	2000
Got WH to use Antiquities Act to establish Coastal National Monument ..	2000
House Oceans Caucus ..	2000–present.
Marine Protected Area center in Santa Cruz ..	2000
Plan Colombia (revising aid for local capacity growth) ..	2000
Annual Citizenship ceremonies ..	2001(?)–present.
Cleaned up FUDS at Monterey Airport ..	2001
Got Fair Trade Sustainable Coffee mandated for House restaurant facilities ..	2001
Wilderness bill (Ventana, Silver Peak) ..	2001
Prevented the Navy from expanding bombing runs at Fort Hunter Liggett ..	2002
Provided the funds (via earmark) for a new Olympic-sized public pool in Salinas ..	2002
Created the U.S. Travel & Tourism Board ..	2003
Legislated FHL lands into permanent status as a national forest under the direction of the Forest Service if FHL is ever supplanted by the military ..	2004
Moved FORA policy from 0% affordable housing to a minimum of 20% ..	2004
Passed a law making California Missions eligible for federal restoration/rehabilitation grants ..	2004
Won locality pay for federal workers in Monterey County ..	2004
Environmental Services Contract Agreement—Fort Ord (clean up complete) ..	2006–2014
Golf carts for the disabled at military golf courses ..	2006
Transferred Pt. Pinos Lighthouse to City of Pacific Grove ..	2006
Established the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at NPS ..	2007
Organized Team Monterey—all DOD entities in Monterey County ..	2007
A Salad Bar in Every School ..	2008
Launched the Civilian Response Corps ..	2008
Negotiated the swap of lands at Fort Ord ("Stillwell Kidney") to allow the expansion of military housing and a new "gateway" for the City of Seaside ..	2008
Saved post office in Aromas from closure ..	2008
Finalized new VA/DOD health clinic (now under construction) ..	2012
Got WH to use Antiquities Act to establish Fort Ord National Monument ..	2012
Legislated elevation of Pinnacles National Monument to full National Park status ..	2012
Marine debris bill (became law) ..	2012
Saved DLI, NPS from BRAC ..	1995, 2005
Legislated the Economic Development Conveyance for BRAC properties ..	1993, 2009
"Monterey Model" for contracting municipal services at military bases ..	2000, 2012
Secured increased per diems for government rates in the district ..	2003, 2012
Proud to be An American Act (became law) ..	1996, 2006, 2008
Santa Cruz Visitors Center ..	2012
Helped break the logjam on H-2A visas for local growers during the government shutdown, ensuring a sufficient workforce for the holiday growing & harvest season ..	2013
Overcame the government shutdown that had closed off parking for the annual Jade Festival in Big Sur ..	2013
Passed a bill in the House (and sent it to the Senate) to name the new VA-DOD health clinic after Gen. Bill Gourley ..	2013 and 2014
Approximate total dollars brought in to the district in 22 years (appropriations only, not formula money) ..	\$1,016,000,000+
Approximate number of constituent letters answered in 22 years ..	511,000
Pajaro River flood prevention ..	Multi-year.
Provided nearly \$7 million to Salinas/Monterey County to fight gangs ..	Various.
San Clemente Dam—working toward removal ..	Multi-year.
Secured waivers for Salinas and Hollister so they can get Rural Development money ..	Various, on-going.
Authored legislation on medical marijuana that became law ..	2014, 2015
Forced FAA to review the SAFR flight plan over Santa Cruz (on-going) ..	2015
Secured the funds to renovate the "Low Water Bridge" at Fort Hunter Liggett ..	2015
Locked in \$56.3 million from previous appropriations for a new barracks at DLI ..	2015
Saved PEPPRA funds for Monterey-Salinas Transit ..	2015
Guaranteed a new ARS station would be built in Salinas by USDA ..	2015
Reinstated \$7.2 million in funding for NOAA's B-WET program ..	2015
Engineered the highest appropriations level for the Peace Corps in its history (410 million) ..	2015
Got the House to pass H.R. 1838 to allow the recreational use of BLM land at Clear Creek as a public recreation area ..	2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I think the comments the gentleman has made show what a difference a Member of Congress can make in the lives of his or her constituents.

One of the things I will say as SAM leaves is that we have joint swearing-in

sessions around the Fourth of July. SAM was born on the Fourth of July. Some of the most memorable moments I have are in Gilroy, with hundreds of people wanting to become American citizens. The remarkable thing about our country is that we have 200 people walk in from 150 countries, and they walk out the citizens of just one country.

SAM has been a leader in immigration, the environment, and so many things, and we honor him and respect him for his service to our country.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I passed legislation called Proud to be an American Day. I was hoping that we could do that on the morning of the Fourth of July, but, because it is a Federal holiday, the Federal immigration people don't work that day. So we have been scheduling this around the Fourth of July and days before.

It has been a huge turnout. It is the largest turnout for press because there are so many interesting people to interview. I really appreciate the gentlewoman coming as an immigrant family and talking about her family background. It has been a highlight to see the smiles and enthusiasm of a day when we are really proud to be Americans.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS), a distinguished Member of the Armed Services Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as the only member from the 53rd District, the only district that is 53rd in the country—the highest number district ever—and I am so aware of the size and scope of California and its congressional delegation.

We have such a wide range of talents and perspectives and contributions that California Members bring to this body. As we see the 114th Congress now come to a close, we have more departing Members than many delegations have in the first place. So I am here to talk about some of them.

We are losing leaders, we are losing friends and mentors, Members whom we have looked to and served beside. We are losing Members who have been so influential as they have shared to make their passion to make lives better, each in their own way. As we bid them farewell, I want to take this moment to pay tribute to five members that I am going to dearly miss.

The first one is LOIS CAPPS. LOIS has really been an example and a role model for how to be the quintessential Congresswoman. She is generous, classy, hardworking, collaborative, and never afraid to stand up for people who are in need. One of the things about LOIS that we all know is she has a lock on the Nicest Member of Congress award, and that is for a really good reason.

She has been very helpful to me, and my staff, from the minute I came to Congress. I came a few years after she

did. Since then, they have been helpful whenever we needed them. I certainly will miss her leadership, her perspective as a nurse and a healthcare advocate, and our region's voice on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

She has always looked out for and delivered for women, kids, consumers, and anyone who has had problems with healthcare coverage. On that committee, she really has been a leader on the environment and a leader in promoting clean energy and green technology.

Everybody knows LOIS here on the floor. We all just look for her assurance and her smile all the time.

SAM FARR just spoke a few minutes ago. He really is a Member that you look to for results.

I learned about SAM when I was a member of the California legislature. One year, when the California members came to visit our Members of Congress, Sam was there to greet us. I remember having discussions with him. I think we were both chairing Consumer Affairs at one time in the State legislature and so we became kind of fast friends.

SAM was also one of my walking buddies. There were a few years there where we walked often in the morning, meeting about six o'clock. We had a gang of us who went down to the park. We were there always talking and having a good time and really sharing our experience here.

One thing we all know about SAM is that he was a legendary photo taker. I can assure you, whenever you see SAM wandering down here on the floor, he was often bringing pictures of people from one event or another that he had taken. They were great mementos. I know that we all treasured them dearly.

SAM is known from Monterrey, which he represents, to Colombia. Everywhere he goes, he speaks to people. Often, if you travel with SAM, you know how hard it is to get him moving because he really wants to stop and talk to everybody along the way.

SAM was really shaped by his service in the Peace Corps and dedicated himself to giving back and looking at tough issues from a global perspective. He has been an earmark and appropriations leader. His staff made him a book of accomplishments, and it was so thick. There were so many things that they had to share about SAM and what he has accomplished.

Just like my colleague had said, he really stands for how we can work hard and we can get things done, especially when we know how to work with people. And SAM knows how to do that. That is why he has such a great, thick binder and lots of wonderful pictures.

SAM has been a leader in the fight against offshore drilling and a smart thinker when it comes to BRAC solutions.

I also want to talk about LORETTA SANCHEZ. As my Armed Services colleague, my housemate, and Longworth

neighbor, LORETTA is someone I really got to see a lot of.

In this kind of funny button-down town we have, LORETTA is really a breath of fresh air. We know she is never afraid to be herself, and she is not like anyone else who has ever served.

She surprised people when she came to Congress after a very long-shot campaign that really wasn't decided for months after she came here. Of course, she has never been afraid to take on a tough-odds fight. She was one of the first younger women before we had a lot of women coming here to Congress—women who had young children—who were really in their earlier years. A lot of us waited until we were later in our careers, but not LORETTA. She came when she was really a young woman.

LORETTA is famous, of course, for her holiday cards and a lot of things that I just can't repeat right now, and for being one of the smartest, thoughtful, and funniest Members that we have here in Congress.

I know that when San Diego groups come to town and want an interesting speaker, I always recommend LORETTA. I never know what she is going to say, but that is why people listen.

She is someone I will dearly miss, but at least she is leaving her little sister here with us in leadership, no less. We are glad to have LINDA in that position.

I want to talk about my friend, MIKE HONDA. MIKE and I have been on the same path. We served in the legislature together, we campaigned in the year of George W., and we came to Congress in the same small Democratic class in 2000. Our staffs have worked very closely together, and he has ruled the seventh floor of Longworth from the same office that he has held the whole time he has been here in Congress.

Like SAM FARR, MIKE was shaped by his service in the Peace Corps in El Salvador. He has been a warrior for justice, whether it is educational justice or civil rights, and he has taken API issues to a new level and really made people aware of the struggles of Asian Americans from internment camps to POW issues to sex trafficking.

MIKE is something of a bridge as well between the generations. He has represented Silicon Valley with pride and been an advocate and example of new technology. His office always crushes all of us in the Golden Mouse Web site competition, and I think he was the first Member to drive a Prius. He still has that same green Prius with a stuffed animal we see parked all over campus.

More than anything, we miss stories of MIKE's famous karaoke nights. I hear nobody does Sinatra better.

Janice Hahn. Janice actually turned out to be one of my newer colleagues from nearby LA, and I certainly hate to see her leave, but she will be a huge asset as a member of the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. She joins a

former colleague here and a former colleague of mine of the State legislature. Go girl.

She is going to do tremendous work. The group of them who are in charge now at LA County, I know, will make tremendous strides for the region and for all of their constituents.

It is very clear that Janice is an expert on transportation and infrastructure. She has helped a lot of us to understand port issues and stands up for the working people who make the goods move.

It is always a great privilege to travel with Janice. I had that opportunity on a few occasions. I am certainly glad she will be serving in elected office. She still has such a great contribution to make.

So, in closing, I just want to say that we certainly are going to miss these Members for different reasons, but those of us still here will carry on their legacies and never forget the marks they have each made.

I have learned from all of them, and I will try to carry on their legacies by making my New Year's resolution to be as genuine as LOIS, as edgy as LORETTA, as engaging as SAM, as good at singing as MIKE, and as spiritual as Janice.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), who represents north of San Francisco and the north coast.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the things I love about serving in Congress is I am always presented with new and interesting experiences. Each year brings more of these experiences, but I have already, in just 4 years, found that there is one experience I have quite enough of, and that is saying goodbye to incredible, irreplaceable colleagues who are just remarkable public servants. I wish them well. I am happy for them in retiring, but I am going to really miss them.

Last year, we had the tough duty of saying goodbye to Henry Waxman and George Miller. This year, we have got another class of terrific people who are moving on.

□ 2015

I am going to miss all of my California colleagues, including our southern California friends, Janice Hahn and LORETTA SANCHEZ; but I want to focus the time I have on our northern California neighbors, starting with our great friend, SAM FARR.

A lot will be said, now and long into the future, about SAM's incredible public service career. People will talk about his time in Colombia in the Peace Corps, the 6 years that he spent on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, his 12 years in the State assembly, his nearly 23 years in Congress. SAM has been such a dedicated and passionate public servant. It is not just the duration and the breadth of those offices. It is really the quality and the character of SAM's service and, particularly, when it comes to the ocean.

SAM was the founder of the House Oceans Caucus, and a longstanding advocate for our coasts and oceans, and

reminding all of us and our country, how important they are to our economy. He helped lay the groundwork for a National Ocean Policy that recognizes that there are tens of millions of jobs across this country and trillions of dollars of economic activity that depend on healthy oceans.

SAM has helped all sorts of special places throughout his career, especially in the Central Coast. He has never rested on his laurels. Despite his many accomplishments—and there are too many to list here—I think it is important to note that he created the Pinnacles National Park, which was signed into law in 2013.

He successfully lobbied to have a national monument at Fort Ord, which was designated in 2012. And SAM has told me many times, even in recent days, that the most satisfying part of his work here in Congress is the enduring part of his legacy, those permanent protections that he, through a lot of hard work and perseverance, has been able to make happen.

Beyond all of this, all of these achievements, all of these offices that define SAM's public service career, I think it is also important to just note he is a heck of a human being.

I will miss SAM. It has been said by Susan and others that he has just always got a warm smile. He greets you on the airplane. He is a pleasure to travel with. He will come up and give you a picture that he took from the last holiday party, sometimes like a year and a half earlier because he has kept it in his pocket for a long time waiting to see you.

SAM, you are just a wonderful friend and human being, and I am so honored to have served with you.

So let's talk about another great human being and public servant, LOIS CAPPS. What I love about LOIS and will deeply miss is the fact that she is a nurse to the core, and a health advocate. She really, as a Member of Congress, and as a health advocate, just walks the walk all the time, constantly advocating for affordable and accessible health care for all, and that includes, obviously, being a champion with her work for the Affordable Care Act. She really does leave this institution, I think, as one of its most respected members, one of the kindest members, certainly one of the ones with widespread affection from her colleagues. That is a reputation that I think everyone in public life should strive for.

LOIS, of course, is another stalwart for California's oceans and our coast, and has helped lead the charge against offshore drilling throughout her tenure.

I think the part of LOIS that I will especially appreciate and especially miss is that she is my living bridge to a wonderful time in my life when I was a student at UC Santa Barbara. Of course, LOIS herself is a graduate of USCB, and I know that my fellow alumni and everyone in the UCSB community is so proud of her.

It is extra special because, of course, she holds the seat in Congress that was previously held by the late Walter Capps, a UCSB professor who was one of my favorite professors way back in the 1980s when I was a Gaucho student.

Finally, it is tough to say good-bye, but we have to, to our great friend, MIKE HONDA, who has so ably represented the Bay Area on the Appropriations Committee. He has made sure that Congress has invested in key priorities for our Bay Area region. The extension of BART is just one of many, many examples of MIKE's great work.

He served in public life for more than 3 decades, from the San Jose School Board to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the California Assembly, and here in Congress.

MIKE's very special service draws upon his life experience. He has just been an incredible champion for civil rights and human rights and equality. He has really been our North Star, I think, here in Congress on these critical issues.

He has gone to bat for the AAPI community, the LGBT community and, frankly, anyone who has been disadvantaged and who needs a champion in their quest for equality.

MIKE is my neighbor here in Washington. I will miss running into him. I will miss seeing that old, beat-up, first-generation Toyota Prius with all the faded stickers on the bumper. Most of all, I will just miss MIKE's great sense of humor, his warm smile, and his friendship; but I do know that that friendship will continue.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleague, ZOE LOFGREN, thank you for the time to lend my voice of appreciation and gratitude to these great, great, champions for California and for our country. We wish them well.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I had a number of other Members who had planned to be here but, because of the hour, there is a conflicting event, so they will be adding their voices to the RECORD.

Let me just close by saying that our delegation—really, all the Congress and the public—are going to miss the distinguished service of SAM FARR, LOIS CAPPS, LORETTA SANCHEZ, MIKE HONDA, and Janice Hahn. Each of them very different, but each of them made their mark in a way that will not be forgotten. We are sad to see them go, but here's the good news: we have fresh faces coming in to replace them who are very distinguished and who will also make their mark because none of us here will be here forever. We are just passing through this people's House in an effort to serve our country as best we can. Certainly, these Members have served that public with tremendous distinction, and we are honored to have served with them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

UNMANAGEABLE CABINET AGENCIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the people's House this evening.

Last night, I talked about my initial reflections on having been a freshman Congressman spending my first term in the United States House of Representatives. Last evening, I talked at length about the growth of the administrative state, the expansion of executive power, to the detriment of the first branch, the legislative branch. I traced those changes from my previous service on Capitol Hill as a young man in the Senate staff of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, and then, most recently, working for President Bush 41 during his 4 years in the Presidency.

Tonight I want to turn and continue that discussion with our American people, Mr. Speaker, and talk about how the cabinet agencies, since I worked for President Bush, worked in cabinet affairs, coordinated economic policy during the last 2 years of his Presidency from the White House staff. I want to talk tonight about those cabinet agencies and how, in my view, they have become essentially unmanageable.

You can see the critical need for spending and personnel reform in many of our departments. In fact, one may assume that change is desired by both the legislative and executive branches, yet reform flounders, whether it was at the Pentagon under Secretary Rumsfeld during Bush 43 or the Veterans Affairs Department today under the current administration.

I have watched the VA for the past 2 years. Secretary McDonald's plans changed, laws are changed, yet malfeasance, incompetence, and worse persist.

On just this Monday, Mr. Speaker, The Washington Post published a shocking report that Pentagon officials buried evidence of \$125 billion in bureaucratic waste during 2015. For that horrific activity, they were the recipients of this month's Golden Fleece Award by my office.

To make it worse, they even made the effort, according to The Washington Post, of hiding this effort, knowing that it would be impetus for the Congress to come together and cut their budget. Clearly, that is a problem with an unmanageable cabinet agency.

I have seen this firsthand right in Little Rock, my hometown, where the center of the Air Force's C-130 program is, for America's airlift, where the Department of the Air Force officials planned for years to transfer aircraft from Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi to Little Rock Air Force Base, basing it as a critical, cost-saving initiative, along with other force structure changes of some \$922 million across future years of their 5-year plan.

Yet, Congress' meddling prevented this commonsense Air Force plan cost-

saving initiative. So these bureaucratic efforts in the cabinet agencies that make them, in my view, unmanageable come both from the executive and from the legislative.

Looking at the Veterans Affairs Department, some 360,000 employees, up 140,000 in the past decade alone. About two-thirds of the members are civilian employees, are part of the American Federation of Government Employees and Service Employees International Union. These VA employees are subject to, of course, the protections by the Merit Systems Protection Board.

While there are many hardworking and dedicated VA employees, both in the healthcare area, across our VA hospitals, and in benefits, and many union members fight for high standards and fight for high quality across our veterans system, the facts are stubborn things, and they remain that the VA has had serious quality, ethics, and management issues that are hurting veterans and hurting the reputation of the Federal Government.

Just in this Congress alone, under the leadership of Congressman JEFF MILLER, the chairman of our Veterans Affairs Committee during this Congress, we have seen reforms to rein in construction spending by the VA, clawback bonuses, fire bad actors, stop paying official time to do union work. We have seen, though, people not fired, even though people have died in VA health care.

We have seen a \$300 million hospital complex, Mr. Speaker, be \$1 billion over budget; not possible, in my view, in the private sector. So there is no doubt that our cabinet agencies need reform. We talked about regulatory reform, executive overreach reform, but we must have work rule reform in our agencies.

The other thing I want to touch on tonight before I talk about solutions is just spending overall to fund the obligations of our Federal Government.

Every month, I receive numerous letters about the \$1.1 trillion in annual spending that Congress typically approves each year. When done properly, this annual spending is approved by way of 12 appropriations bills in this body, the people's House, and six appropriations bills in the Senate. They are conferenced together, and they are presented to the President for his veto or approval.

The problem is that this very typical, very constitutional program that has been applied for 240 years about how to authorize and appropriate funds to operate our government just no longer typically happens, yet this is Congress' most fundamental obligation under Article I.

The appropriations clause is but 16 words long. "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by law."

This is our job, yet the last time that all the appropriations bills were passed individually and enacted into law before October 1 of a new fiscal year was

1994. My, that is a terrible track record.

So this is not a President Obama issue or a President Bush issue. This is an issue of the Congress itself. Now you know why, after 20 years, I have seen so many things change, and not for the better, coming back to Washington to represent the people of central Arkansas.

□ 2030

What happens without such a process of appropriations bills is what we will be voting on this week: a continuing resolution which simply freezes spending at current levels and extends forward to a date certain, or, as an alternative to that kind of continuing resolution, an omnibus spending bill where everything is rolled into one.

These massive bills reflect the work, hopefully, of our House and Senate committees. They frequently contain items, Mr. Speaker, that are parachuted into the bill at the end of the negotiations between the House and the Senate, and those produce fireworks on both sides of the political spectrum.

The irony about that debate of that \$1.1 trillion in typical annual spending, approved by this body, is that it composes about \$600 billion—50 percent—that goes to our national defense that funds the essential expenditures for our men and women in uniform. About \$80 billion goes to our veterans and military construction projects around the United States and the world, and the balance is for everything else that we consider government: highway finance, local education initiatives that go to our States, our national parks, and help for our Corps of Engineers on our ports and along our rivers.

What shocks the Arkansans that I respond to about their letters is that, while I appreciate their correspondence, their emails about that \$1.1 trillion in spending, the so-called domestic discretionary spending, I remain frustrated that Congress' lack of action on the other \$3.5 trillion that this government spends is in the mandatory spending portion of the budget. It is not subject to annual appropriations.

So I thank you for your mail and your suggestions about how we can reform spending at the Pentagon or reform spending in our national forests or our national parks, but \$3.5 trillion is in mandatory spending which funds Social Security, Social Security Disability, Medicaid health care for the poor, Medicare health care for the elderly, and interest on our national debt—and these programs are essentially based on eligibility.

Yet, many of us remain concerned about the size of our annual deficits—the total size of our national debt—particularly when you consider the size of the national debt to our total economy. We currently have about \$19 trillion in outstanding debt of the United States with about \$6 trillion of that

owed to foreign investors outside the U.S., principally in Japan and China. This debt is a percentage of our GDP, that is \$19 trillion, which is about 100 percent of GDP.

Back in my twenties, when I worked for Senator Tower from Texas on the Senate Banking Committee, debt to GDP was about 30 percent. When I worked for President Bush 41 as a member of his White House staff for economic policy, our debt was about 50 or 60 percent of GDP. Now you know why after 20 years I remain so concerned, because it has now doubled.

There is a lot of economic research that tells us about the dampening impact on our national growth rates if we have national debt at these kinds of levels. It saps capital alternatives to the private sector that can bring faster growth. Clearly, since the Great Recession of 2008, we have had low growth—well below what I believe should be the growth rate of this great economy.

Likewise, we are at a time of low interest rates. Interest rates are likely on the rise. And while we are paying a modest amount of interest on that soon-to-be \$19 trillion dollars today, the Congressional Budget Office believes that, as interest rates gradually increase over the next few months and years, interest will move from about \$220 billion to \$830 billion, Mr. Speaker, over the next 10 years, surpassing what we spend as a nation on our national defense. So there is no doubt the Federal Government has grown too big and too complex and interferes too greatly. We must get our fiscal house in order.

Mr. Speaker, eliminating waste and fraud will not do it. Raising taxes won't do it. I am always reminded by members of the opposition that insist that we can only balance our budget by raising taxes. Winston Churchill's favorite quote about taxes: "We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift it himself by the handle." It is not going to do it, Mr. Speaker.

This problem is too large and requires reform, and it requires this Congress to reform in the out-years and put us on the right track. Former Joint Chief of Staff Chairman Michael Mullen said in 2010, 6 years ago, Mr. Speaker, that the biggest national security problem facing the United States was the size of our national debt.

So let me talk now, Mr. Speaker, about potential solutions that this Congress has to adopt working with our President-elect in the coming days, in the coming years, and in the early months of the Trump administration. First, Congress, heal thyself. We must reassert our Article I powers: the power of the purse; the power of the proper appropriations process. We don't need someone to impose that. We need to impose it on ourselves.

We need to remind the American people to contact us, to help us return to regular order and return to the appropriations process. We need all 12 of

those bills passed and we need to stop depending on continuing resolutions like we will this week. This is something I think that is fundamental.

Let's talk about some of the reforms to that budget process tonight. In this Congress, I was proud to support the Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act, which was introduced by REID RIBBLE of Wisconsin. If this bill passes, it would help the government fix our broken budget system by establishing a biennial budget cycle. I think this would provide Federal agencies with the kind of planning capability that would make them much more effective. We could identify cost savings, no doubt, in the important infrastructure area and long-term systems issues that we have, particularly in the Pentagon. This would be a large advantage.

After reflecting on this, I support abolishing our Budget Committee process. Put in place in 1974, the intent was to have a way to rein in the executive. The Budget Act of 1974 was to help punish Richard Nixon. I believe that if we abolish the Budget Committee, we can allow our authorizing committees to serve both an authorizing and an appropriating function. We can eliminate redundancies in our Federal Government, and we can look inward in how we can eliminate also unnecessary procedures in Congress that waste time. In turn, our Appropriations Committee would oversee the budget resolutions, making sure that Congress spends no more than what we have approved in a budget resolution and that we can review individual ceilings for appropriating money for those government functions that don't require an authorization.

I also support the idea of properly directing the Congressional Budget Office to account for, or score, in their terminology, for long-term investments as budget impacts versus just current-year spending. These ideas are not revolutionary; they are well known.

We are stuck in the past, Mr. Speaker, and we must reform ourselves starting with this budget and appropriations process. In fact, these ideas are as old as my boss' suggestions. John Tower was a 24-year veteran of the Senate. He served on the Budget Committee and was chairman of the Armed Services Committee in the Senate. These were his ideas upon his retirement in 1984 as to how to make the Congress more effective.

The Congressional Budget Office relies on a set of government statistics including GDP growth, inflation, and tax receipts. It takes into accounts dynamic scoring. In my view, these things need to be done in a more proper way to better calculate the cost of legislation and the benefits for the economy. For example, CBO does not currently include interest payments on the debt when scoring new legislation. As previously mentioned, this interest will grow exponentially in the coming

years, and now spending programs and reforms, in my view, ought to be calculated and take into account the agency costs and the carrying costs on our national debt.

Another recommended reform to the CBO from our House Budget Committee would be to eliminate built-in discretionary inflation, removing the automatic extensions of expiring programs, and removing the current assumption that entitlement payments will continue at current levels even when their trust funds are predicted to be insolvent. These practices currently used by CBO result in automatic plus-ups for the baseline budget, and these reforms, in my view, will remove the current bias to ever higher spending levels.

We ought to consider what we do in the private sector, Mr. Speaker, zero-based budgeting to assess what is really needed and not needed in our Federal agencies. What a great idea for Mr. Trump's incoming new Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Interior Department, let's go to zero-based budgeting. Let's have you justify to the Chief Financial Officer in the Interior Department every program, and then come to Congress with your recommendation of what we really should be doing at Interior or any other bureau or cabinet agency of the government.

House and Senate bills have been introduced on this issue. Representative DUNCAN of Tennessee and Senator THUNE of South Dakota would, I think, bring a lot of common sense. They would say that if private enterprises are performing activities duplicated by an arm of the Federal Government, then they would have the opportunity to compete for that work that Federal agencies unnecessarily handle in-house and, therefore, give better value to our taxpayers.

IT investments—information technology—is a critical function in all of our private sector life. Yet, GAO, the Government Accountability Office, found that 75 percent of the technology budget for the Federal Government goes to just painting up and fixing aging technology rather than modernizing and going in a different direction on IT.

They are actually still using floppy disks at the Pentagon and maintaining 1970s-era computer platforms. Look, that stuff ought to be in the Smithsonian, not at the Pentagon. The report notes that the Social Security systems that are used to determine our eligibility and our benefits are more than 30 years old and are based on COBOL computer language. Mr. Speaker, I used COBOL computer language when I was in college almost 40 years ago. We need that kind of reform in order to be competitive and provide services to our constituents and safe, cyber-ready protections. We have already witnessed the Office of Personnel Management losing people's identities and creating identify theft right in the middle of a

Federal computer system that is supposed to be the best.

Our chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, JASON CHAFFETZ, has expressed his support for modernizing our government's aging systems, calling it a vital part of infrastructure that we need in order to have a fully functional government. I couldn't agree more. We don't need to shortchange these agencies when it comes to delivering a safe, cyber-protected IT infrastructure.

Last night I talked about the administrative state, the growth of regulation, and the cost of regulation exceeding that of all the revenues from the tax system. Let's talk about what we can do to rein in regulatory costs. The House passed a Separation of Powers Restoration Act in 2016, which would amend the Administrative Procedure Act, to require the courts to decide all de novo relevant questions of law, including the interpretation of constitutional and statutory provisions and rules. This bill would eliminate the Chevron deference, which, in my view, is blocking common sense being used and direction of this people's House and the Senate over our regulatory body.

This is not a new topic, Mr. Speaker. James Madison in Federalist 51 discussed the need of each branch of government to guard against overreach by another. He stated that when an overreach occurs, ambition must be to counteract ambition.

That is what we want to do in this House, Mr. Speaker. We have passed the REINS Act, Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act. The REINS Act, which passed this act overwhelmingly, said that any major rule like those that I described last night that cost the economy more than \$100 million would require coming back to Congress for approval. That will put the people's Representatives here in charge of the administrative state and not the other way around.

I referenced a few minutes ago The Washington Post story about uncovering \$125 billion of hidden-away, misdirected spending at the Pentagon that I awarded this month's Golden Fleece Award.

□ 2045

I brought back the Golden Fleece from the seventies. It was created by Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin. It is that kind of thing that I think calls attention to egregious behavior by the Executive and allows us to have policy changes here. I commend former Senator Tom Coburn and his successor Senator LANKFORD for the same kind of work.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to turn to the subject of the Community Empowerment Initiative, something that I have spent a lot of time on in my district in Little Rock, finding ways to fight poverty and use the talents and time of the private sector to do that, and also to identify ways that we can

find a better way to enhance the lives of American citizens, get them out of poverty, get them the education they need and the skills they need to succeed in our economy.

This is the big challenge before the incoming Trump administration and this Congress. It is important that people have a vested interest in their community and have a sense of community engagement about how we do what I talked about last night, the idea that we let people closest to the problems solve those problems and not be dependent on one-size-fits-all challenges here.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have been reelected and continue to serve the citizens of Arkansas and our country. I am humbled to be asked to raise my hand on January 3 and again affirm my allegiance to our country and our beloved Constitution.

Every Thursday morning, we assemble for the House prayer breakfast, and every Thursday morning I feel the prayers around our country, for our country. We in that group pray for all of our families. We pray for our men and women in uniform around our world protecting our liberties and our freedoms. I pray for each of the families in my district, that they have the health and prosperity and the ability to pursue happiness under our great Constitution.

On behalf of my family, I wish all of the people of the Second Congressional District of Arkansas a blessed Christmas season. May God bless our troops overseas and our great Nation.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 795. An act to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

S. 3395. An act to require limitations on prescribed burns.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7785. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Anthony G. Crutchfield, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7786. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Submission of Food and Drug Administration Import Data in the Automated Commercial Environment [Docket No.: FDA-2016-N-1487] (RIN: 0910-AH41) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7787. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — New Animal Drugs for Use in Animal Feed; Category Definitions; Confirmation of Effective Date [Docket No.: FDA-2016-N-1896] received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7788. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Arkansas River; Little Rock, AR [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0992] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7789. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the twelfth annual Federal Trade Commission Report on Ethanol Market Concentration, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(10)(B); July 14, 1955, ch. 360, title II, Sec. 211 (amended by Public Law 109-58, Sec. 1501(a)(2)); (119 Stat. 1074); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7790. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Energy Labeling Rule (RIN: 3084-AB15) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7791. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Used Motor Vehicle Trade Regulation Rule (RIN: 3084-AB05) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7792. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 2016 edition of the Department's annual "To Walk the Earth in Safety" report; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7793. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of

Offer and Acceptance for the Government of Peru, Transmittal No. 16-76, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7794. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance for the Government of Finland, Transmittal No. 16-65, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7795. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia, Transmittal No. 16-54, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7796. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-069, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7797. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-110, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7798. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-098, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7799. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-039, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7800. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-095, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7801. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-112, pursuant to Sections 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7802. A letter from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's FY 2014 and 2015 Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and of Commercial Activities, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7803. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Regulatory Affairs Law Division, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Freedom of Information Act Regulations [Docket No.: DHS-2009-0036] (RIN: 1601-AA00) received December 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7804. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7805. A letter from the Program Specialist, LRAD, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rules — Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans

Exemption Threshold [Docket No.: OCC-2015-0021] (RIN: 1557-AD99) received December 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7806. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2016 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7807. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's Report of FY 2016 Audits, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. 8G(h)(2); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 8G(h)(2) (as added by Public Law 100-504, Sec. 104(a)); (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7808. A letter from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting the Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2016, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7809. A letter from the Executive Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7810. A letter from the Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel, transmitting the Counsel's FY 2016 Performance and Accountability Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7811. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment (RIN: 3133-AE59) received December 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7812. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Potomac River and Anacostia River, and adjacent waters; Washington, DC [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0675] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7813. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Great Egg Harbor Bay, Marmora, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2016-1011] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7814. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Grounds; Delaware Bay and River, Philadelphia, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0110] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7815. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of justification regarding the suspension of limitations

under the Jerusalem Embassy Act, pursuant to Public Law 104-45(7)(a); (109 Stat. 400); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3764. A bill to provide that an Indian group may receive Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe only by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-847). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOWDY: Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi Final Report of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi (Rept. 114-848). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 949. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 612) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse" (Rept. 114-849). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 329 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 6447. A bill to establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference in the 2016 Election; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6448. A bill to establish the National Wildlife Corridors System to provide for the protection and restoration of native fish, wildlife, and plant species and their habitats in the United States that have been diminished by habitat loss, degradation, fragmentation, and obstructions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6449. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide political advertising vouchers and payments to defray the costs of postage for candidates in general elections to the Senate or House of

Representatives who agree to restrictions on the types of contributions such candidates raise and the types of expenditures such candidates make, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 6450. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself and Mr. CHAFFETZ):

H.R. 6451. A bill to improve the Government-wide management of Federal property; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 6452. A bill to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 6453. A bill to clarify the effect of a Memorandum Opinion for the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, dated September 20, 2011, and pertaining to the lawfulness of proposals by Illinois and New York to use the Internet and out-of-state transaction processors to sell lottery tickets to in-state adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6454. A bill to require a certain percentage of LNG and crude oil exports be transported on United States-built and United States-flag vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee):

H.R. 6455. A bill to require a certain percentage of LNG and crude oil exports be transported on vessels documented under the laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6456. A bill to render the amounts authorized to be appropriated for U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration

and Customs Enforcement for fiscal years 2018 through 2021 contingent upon the amount appropriated for the Executive Office for Immigration Review for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6457. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage of preventive services that are required to be covered by group and individual health plans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6458. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to prohibit a State from requiring individuals to submit to drug testing as a condition of assistance under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance to needy families, to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to prohibit a public housing agency from requiring individuals to submit to drug testing as a condition of assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 6459. A bill to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. JONES, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 6460. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require, for projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of treatment works funded through a State drinking water treatment revolving loan fund, the use of iron and steel products that are produced in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 6461. A bill to encourage school bus safety; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York (for himself, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 6462. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act for purposes of prioritizing the most vulnerable Medicaid patients; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York (for himself and Mr. LONG):

H.R. 6463. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance with respect to three-dimensional human tissue models, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 6464. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for teacher-led projects to improve academic growth in elementary school and secondary school, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 6465. A bill to authorize the incorporation of water quality improvement partnership programs into Federal Water Pollution Control Act NPDES permit programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota (for himself and Mr. DEFALIO):

H.R. 6466. A bill to establish a website for Federal Government apps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6467. A bill to provide that individuals may elect to retain work-related benefits when moving throughout the workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HARRIS (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BRAT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. WALKER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. CONAWAY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. PALMER, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 6468. A bill to prohibit any entity that receives Federal funds and does not comply with a lawful request for information or detention of an alien made by any officer or employee of the Federal government who is charged with enforcement of the immigration laws from receiving additional funding; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6469. A bill to revise the Yurok reservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. MESSER):

H.R. 6470. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit fellowship and stipend compensation to be saved in an individual retirement account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 6471. A bill to expand retroactive eligibility of the Army Combat Action Badge to include members of the Army who participated in combat during which they personally engaged, or were personally engaged by, the enemy at any time on or after December 7, 1941; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 6472. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Volunteer Teacher Advisory Committee and a Volunteer Parents and Families Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 6473. A bill to express the sense of Congress that information security is crit-

ical to the economic security of the United States and to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a report on the costs of information security; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H.R. 6474. A bill to eliminate the daily newspaper cross-ownership rule of the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 6475. A bill to remove reversionary clauses on property owned by the municipality of Anchorage, Alaska; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUSH:

H. Con. Res. 180. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that rates for inmate calling service should not exceed the affordable modified rates adopted by the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H. Con. Res. 181. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a certain correction in the enrollment of S. 1635; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia):

H. Con. Res. 182. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the sinking of the U.S.S. West Virginia during that attack; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. LEE:

H. Res. 948. A resolution honoring the individuals who lost their lives in the tragic fire in Oakland, California, on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARRETT:

H. Res. 950. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 23 as a national day of remembrance of the tragic 1983 terrorist bombing of the United States Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 6447.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6448.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 3; Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2; and Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6449.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the U. S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defense and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 6450.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 6451.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States), Clause 6 (relating to post offices and post roads), and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 6452.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 6453.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

In conjunction with the Commerce Clause (Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3) which states that Congress has the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6454.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6455.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6456.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6457.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6458.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:

H.R. 6459.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 6460.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 6461.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section

8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 6462.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 6463.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 6464.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 6465.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 6466.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6467.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HARRIS:

H.R. 6468.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 4 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6469.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or office thereof.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 6470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 6471.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, wherein it reads: "Congress shall have the power . . . to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States . . ." and "Congress shall have the power to . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Miss RICE of New York:

H.R. 6472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 6473.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 6474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 6475.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

"The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 239: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 446: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1095: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1098: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 1111: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1258: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1305: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 1342: Mrs. RADEWAGEN and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 1401: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1459: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1571: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 1733: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1814: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2016: Mr. NORCROSS and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2067: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2519: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 2798: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 2849: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2863: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 2972: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 3084: Mr. KATKO and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 3222: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 3861: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 3970: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4298: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 4622: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 4794: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 4795: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 4796: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 4813: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 4833: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Mr. Gutiérrez.

H.R. 4919: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 4932: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 4938: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 5008: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 5067: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5183: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 5235: Mr. RUIZ and Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.

H.R. 5272: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 5369: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 5386: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 5474: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 5589: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 5654: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 5851: Ms. MENG, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 6041: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 6117: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 6159: Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 6166: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 6176: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 6205: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 6208: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6226: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 6320: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 6340: Mr. KEATING, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 6343: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 6377: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 6382: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6417: Mr. COHEN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 6421: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. DENT.
H.R. 6424: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 6428: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 6436: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KIND, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 6446: Mr. PASCRELL.
H. Con. Res. 144: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. TIPTON.
H. Con. Res. 159: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. KEATING.
H. Con. Res. 175: Mr. NADLER.
H. Con. Res. 176: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H. Res. 12: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Res. 289: Mr. TONKO and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 590: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 833: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.